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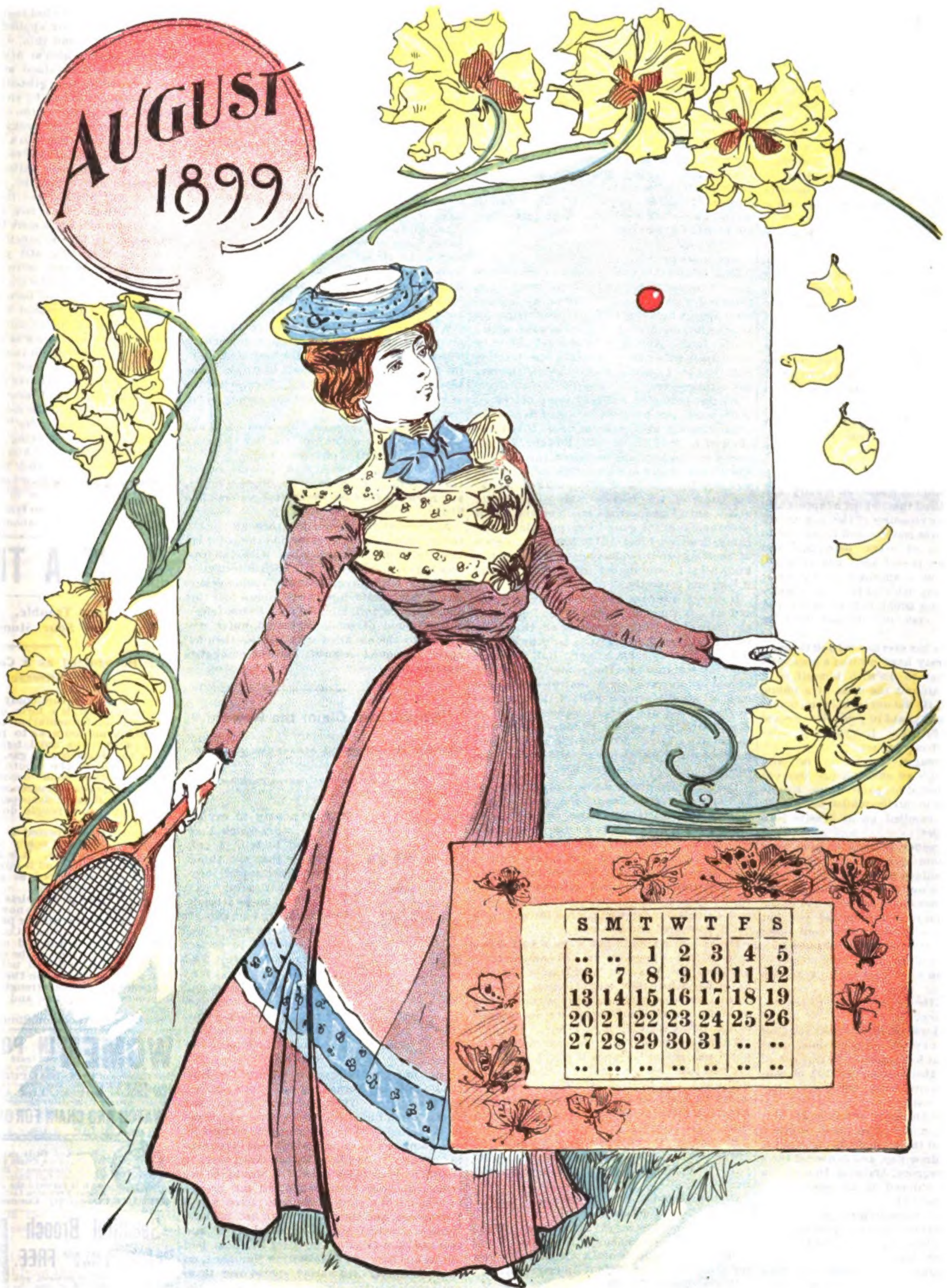
THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

NEW YORK

AUGUSTA, MAINE.

BOSTON

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PRIZE WINNERS FOR AUGUST.

Albert H. Moodrick, First Prize.
Alexander McPherson, Second Prize.
D. H. Talmadge, Third Prize.
F. E. Burnham, Fourth Prize.
George A. Baker, Fifth Prize.

OVER AN OPEN GRAVE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY ALBERT H. MOODRICKER.

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IF two persons, from the fact of having met before, might dispense with the ceremony of introduction, in nine cases out of ten the readers of COMFORT would not need a word of preface from me, but would be content with my story at once; in fact, I shall do so, after a brief description of myself, not as I am, but as it is usually my wont to appear in public.

Are you living in the country? Then the chances are that at a not remote hour you may have seen prowling about the neighborhood a man who might have been a tramp, an ex-pugilist, a dog stealer—any one or all of these, as his dress would present such a strange combination as to utterly confound your attempt to guess the particular grade to which the stranger belonged—that man was Detective Clue.

Are you a resident of the city, who know the faces of those whom you meet during your walks in the streets and in the parks? If so, you may have seen a man who has puzzled you—a "swell," faultlessly "got up" as to dress, with a profuse yet quiet display of jewelry, and you may have noticed that, whilst he apparently participated in the pleasures of the gay crowd of idlers, his eye was restless, and failed not to scan the features of every masculine and feminine face that passed him, and this, too, without the slightest approach to rudeness; and your keen eye detected that his jewelry was paste, and you could not, do what you would, "make the man out"—he was Detective Clue.

If your business has ever carried you through the slums, you may have noticed a man who did not know what to do with himself, so to speak, hanging around the door of a public house or saloon. He did not trouble you much, however; you simply said to yourself: "Some poor fellow out of work." But you were mistaken—he was Detective Clue.

You have, I presume, traveled by rail and found your *vis-a-vis* an affable loquacious old gentleman, who rested his palm on the handle of a stout cane or umbrella, whilst he quietly scrutinized and banded an inoffensive joke with each passenger.

Perhaps, dear reader, it has also been your lot to see this same agreeable old gentleman condescend to a sudden fit of seriousness as he whispered something in the ear of one of the occupants of the passenger car who was going to alight. This may have surprised you, but what followed this strange movement, gave you a clue to the mystery—you witnessed an altercation, followed by the sharp click of handcuffs, and you knew that he was Detective Clue.

To begin then—Detective Clue and I are one and the same person.

Some time ago I was obliged to visit the Gulf Coast of Florida, to work up, if possible, some smuggling cases, it having come to the ear of the Department that a large quantity of contraband cigars were being brought to this country from Havana.

Fortunately I had a pretty accurate description of the craft used by the contrabandists, who always landed their goods in an obscure cove, near St. Andrew Bay, and conveyed them by wagons to Evergreen, Alabama, from which point they were shipped to all parts of the country and disposed of.

After traveling second-class, yet by the fastest trains, I arrived upon my ground, so to speak, of course, where I suspected the fountain head of the mystery lay.

I felt rather confident of success, and for a few days after my arrival, I drifted aimlessly from street to street, from saloon to saloon, from shop to shop, and along the dingy pier and sunlit beach, forming acquaintances, learning the town, and talking frequently, of myself and others, and of my half-wild life,

afloat and ashore, until I become generally known as "Dark Dan," the sailor—for such was the unremarkable disguise I had chosen to assume on this occasion—and was soon regarded as an open-handed, careless tar, lawless, perhaps, reckless certainly, but a good fellow nevertheless; and this point gained, my plans were soon formed.

I soon elicited the fact that one Don Manarez, an old and wicked-eyed Spaniard, who dealt in "black-strap" Madeira cigars and fruit was the "fence" of the smugglers, and to him I applied one dusky evening as we sat chatting—I had, of course, duly formed his acquaintance—beneath the shadow of the mission dome in the open piazza in front of Manarez's door, for a purchase of Havana cigars.

"Don, old man, ye're a bit wonderin' no doubt, why I came up here, eh?" I quizzed, knocking the ashes from the tip of a fine Havana cigar he had given me. "Truth now, old man, am I right?"

The Spaniard admitted as much and smiled; and what a smile—a wrinkled, toothy smile.

"See here, old boy," I continued "I'll tell ye. I'm just what I appear—a sailor, but I've a reason for being here—see? It's this way; an old chap, who is a friend of mine, is a cigar dealer in Boston, an' he asked me, as I was comin' South, to see what could be done down this way. Understand? Now, Don, I'm on the 'buy,' say fifty thousand first-class I would go the 'yellow.' Do you know of any fellow who has some stock to sell?"

The old Spaniard eyed me sharply for a few moments; then drew nearer and said:

"Yes, meet me at the head of La Shark at sunrise, and I'll show you some goods. 'Tis cash; my friend is poor."

"Cash it is, old boy," said I. "My friend is wheat, he is—he's good for a large plantation, an' knows a good cigar."

"Ni senor."

And so we parted.

La Shark was the title of a narrow inlet which pierced the land between the high, rocky walls, three miles up the coast. It was a wild, lonesome spot, where the tide rose and fell with sudden fury, and where storms howled with a fearful force. At ebb, a little beach might be seen upon either shore, beneath the beetling cliff; but at a storm the waves lashed the very walls themselves.

We met promptly, and the result of the interview was the purchase by me of ten thousand cigars, which were at once boxed and shipped to "my friend" in Boston. In due time a second purchase was made, then a third. The Don became communicative as his greed was satisfied, and forgot his prudence, speaking freely of his friends who supplied the goods, until I had learned much of the habits and number of the gang I was pursuing. One thing, however, I had still to learn; their place of meeting and rendezvous. Without this knowledge I could do but little, and I sought it long and earnestly.

However, one dark and threatening morning, as I sat awaiting the coming of the Don at the old place of meeting, pondering on this question, he appeared, and, after a lengthy conversation, led me to their retreat. Half an hour after my entrance into the rendezvous, which proved to be a cave, eight brawny sun-tanned men, all heavily armed, half of them ruffians by their faces, the others worse, headed by Blackbeard their captain, a bronze giant, with an eye like a hawk and a lion-like mane of hair hanging upon his shoulders and breast, also entered.

The Don introduced me as an old customer and as a new friend, and I was received graciously as a matter of course, although with evident caution, especially on the chief's part. He took a dislike to me; and, later, as I sat before the open fire—for it was rather chilly—drinking and smoking, I felt that beneath the careless words and the half welcome given me, there lingered distrust so dread and ferocious that a single misstep would mean instant death and I shuddered and was wary.

It was nearing midnight when a half dozen more of the smugglers arrived—among them Spaniards and Mexicans—and it lacked but little of day when they sought repose. Among them I lay, and wearied both physically and mentally, notwithstanding the strangeness and danger of my surroundings, I slept.

The hours passed and the day came again, but it was not until the sun rose high in the heavens that I awoke. As my eyes opened and fell upon the freebooters nearby, and as I strove to rise I found myself securely bound hand and foot. I was a prisoner. My heart sank.

Blackbeard, the chief, strode to my side. "Ye're tied, ye sneaking hound! Ye snake! Ye spy! Ye're tied, but we'll ontie ye, by-an'-by."

Ominous words. I shuddered.

"And why?" I queried, "why?"

"Why? Ye know, ye cursed dog! Why? Look at this an' mahap, ye kin recon," and thrusting his hand beneath his shirt, he drew something forth and held it up before me.

It was my detective badge.

"One o' the boys seen that in your shirt last night, an' we took care o' it. I know what it is an' the boys hev cast a lot, an' ye die at noon—see!"

Without a word he turned away. For a few

moments I could scarcely breathe. Then slowly my heart began to work again. It was but little time now for I must die at noon.

Time passed, as time will, and at length Blackbeard and three of his men appeared at my side.

"Snake, the sun's high, an' the boys have decided how to launch ye."

The men lifted me up, carried me to a stretcher near at hand, and laid me upon it. Then one produced a keg marked "Powder," and another put a long fuse into the open bung.

"The boys didn't want ye to go off common like, ye see, so they have filled this."

I made no sign.

"We'll giv' ye a room whar there's a fine view of La Shark, an' hev ye think o'er your past life for a couple of hours or so—see? The match will last that long," he added.

The ruffians lifted me upon the stretcher—my bier that was to be—and bearing me through a long and winding passage deposited me at last in a small, tomb-like space, opening by a low archway directly above the water. Here they placed me and deposited the powder keg beneath me; and then one lighted the snake-like fuse.

"By-bye, ye scum o' the sea!" said Blackbeard. "Compose yourself; it's a quick death. By-bye!"

And the murderers strode from the room.

"Two hours! Oh, God, it is fearful! Why could they not have killed me outright—now?" I had silently moaned.

Then the implacable fate approaching me swept across my brain in one wild, maddening surge, and consciousness fled.

When knowledge returned, I laid half dreaming, over my open grave, noting nothing until a sudden, pungent smell of burning wood entered my nostrils and aroused thought.

Involuntarily I turned my head to learn the cause, when suddenly, with a little crumbling sound, the stretcher sunk at one corner, my body lost its equilibrium and I rolled to the floor. The powder-train, passing close to one leg of the stretcher, had so charred it that it had finally broken.

Writhing like a snake, I managed to throw myself upon the live coals of the still burning wood, where I laid, despite the horrible pain of the fire eating into my flesh, until the cords that bound me were severed. Then, with one mighty effort, I freed myself and sprung to my feet.

Not a moment too soon. The two hours had passed, the slow-match had reached the powder-keg. A fraction of it remained.

I seized the keg, raised it in my arms, rushed through the opening onto the ledge without, and hurled it from me toward the waters of La Shark.

As it descended, bomb-like, through the air, there suddenly shot from behind the point below, the smugglers' craft filled with the free-booting crew—shot forward until directly beneath the falling keg, until the hissing demon struck fairly amidships; then came a roar that shook heaven and, mingled with hoarse cries—a dense cloud of smoke appeared, water shot high into the air filled with debris—then fell again, and quiet reigned; but the smugglers were no more.

"Strike! and Claim the Reward."

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY ALEXANDER MCPHERSON.

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DO not try to explain the story which I am about to tell. I only know that the things happened as I tell them, and that great good came to me as a result. One thing I am sure of; that where once I was accustomed to declare very positively that this thing or that thing must be so and so, I had rather say, now, "I do not know. There is much in life I do not pretend to understand."

I was hurrying back to the office of the Boston—late one afternoon, when I was a reporter for that paper. There had been an accident at the North End. An old building which was being pulled down had accelerated matters by collapsing and burying a number of workmen in the ruins. I had been rushed down there to telephone back to the office if it would be necessary to run an extra, but it had not proved to be much of a story. The contractor was a Portuguese, and the men at work had all been Italians. Several men had been bruised, and two had been killed. The latter had been laid out on the floor of Police Station Number 1, on Hanover street, with a sheet spread over them until their relatives should come to claim the bodies. I reckoned that I could get back to the office, write all the story that would be necessary, and get through in season to go home to supper.

Turning a corner I saw a crowd around a

police box. Of course I stopped to see what had happened. The door of the box was open and two officers were holding up an old man between them while they waited for a hurry-up wagon. "Drunk!" I thought to myself, and was going on, when one of the officers made the crowd in front break away, and I happened to get a fair sight of the prisoner. I recognized him at once as a Jewish doctor, or rabbi, whom I had run across in my work not long before.

I had been sent down to the Hebrew quarter of the city, one day, to write up a story about the fidelity which the Jews show to the forms of their religion, especially in the preparation of their food. It was just before some religious feast when it seemed as if every Hebrew family in the city was determined to have a chicken to eat. I found one large building devoted to nothing but trade in fowls—live fowls, cackling and crowing in wooden cages. The Jewish women came and selected what suited them, and then generally held their purchases themselves until they could be killed.

One whole floor was devoted to the killing, and I was allowed to go in and see the ceremony—for I came to feel that this was the only word which properly applied to the process. An old man, tall and thin, with a certain dignity of manner which at first seemed in ill accord with his work, stood at one end of the room, holding a long glistening knife. A fowl was passed out to him by an attendant. Turning the head of the victim deftly, so that the throat was bared, one stroke of the knife sent the red blood flowing into a shining basin beneath. In a moment the requisition of the old Mosaic law had been satisfied, and the fowl was passed on to be plucked, paid for and carried home. As I watched the flash of the knife, and studied the man's face, I came to feel that this was for him not a mere butchery. He was a priest of the Law, as much as were those of whom the Bible tells, 5000 years ago. Later I had a chance to talk with him. He was a Polish Jew, come to this country to escape persecution. Life had not been easy for him, here, I judged. If I understood him he was not a rabbi, but only a doctor, not licensed to preach but merely do such work as this. I found him interesting, and thought then I would look him up again, sometime, and get a story for the Sunday edition, but I never got around to do it.

This was the man I saw between the two policemen. Those in the crowd were laughingly talking about his "jag," but I did not believe he had been drinking. John Gerry, one of the officers who held him, was a good friend of mine. He told me they had found the old man insensible in a doorway. That was all. They let me ride to the Station House with him. I knew he had no family, and from what I could tell them there about him the Captain

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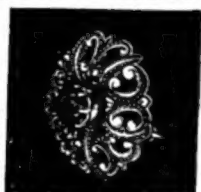


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had him sent directly to the hospital. I thought I might as well go along, too, and see him taken care of. It would be too late for me to get home to supper anyway. Before I left he had come to himself but was very weak, and lay back on the clean hospital bed as if it was a welcome rest. The next day I ran in to see him. "He is asleep, now," said the ward nurse, "but he was asking for you this morning." His face looked ivory white against the pillow.

"The doctor says he will die," the nurse whispered.

The Jew could not have heard her, but he opened his eyes. When he saw me he reached a giant hand over the quilt towards me.

"You have been kind to me," he said faintly. "I cannot repay you, but you can claim your reward. Strike down the man whose face the Lord has marked with a cross of blood!"

"His mind is wandering," the nurse said.

"He is the guilty man," the Jew went on, after a moment, as if there had been no interruption. "I have seen it in a vision. Strike him down, and claim the reward! It is your privilege, and your duty."

After that he seemed to sleep again, and in a few minutes I left him. That night he died. The nurse said he never spoke again. At first I thought I would write a story for the paper about it, but I didn't. I didn't seem to feel as if I wanted to. Newspaper men can't have much sensitiveness, but when I came to think about writing this "case" I found I'd rather not. So I didn't; and in time forgot about it.

Two years later I was sent out to the western part of the state to spell a man who had been reporting a long and sensational murder trial there. Some of the rest of my story will be remembered as made public through the papers at the time, but much of it was hushed up by the friends of the family.

An elderly man of wealth had been found dead in his office. His confidential clerk had been arrested and was being tried for the crime, many people said because no one else could be found to accuse. He seemed an honest young man, but somewhat wild; and acknowledged that he had been drinking on the day and evening of the tragedy, of which he steadfastly declared he knew nothing. There was none but purely circumstantial evidence, and a brother of the dead man offered a reward of \$1000 and finally raised it to \$5000, for any positive proof of the crime.

I had never seen any of the parties in the case, and when Court assembled the first morning I was there and naturally watched them with interest as they came into the court room. The prisoner seemed a decent-looking fellow, but you never can tell. Another reporter who had been there longer told me who the folks were as they came in.

"That is the murdered man's brother," he said. "The one who has offered the reward." The man he pointed out stood near the door, talking to some one there. I could see only his profile.

When he turned I saw on his right temple a deep red birthmark in the form of a cross!

In an instant the scene in the hospital came back to me. The giant hand reaching out across the quilt; the far-seeing eyes in the ivory-colored face upon the pillow.

"Strike down the guilty man, whose face the Lord has marked with a cross of blood! Strike and claim the reward! It is your privilege, and your duty."

How I got through the next two days, and worked, I hardly know. It was fortunate for my paper that the trial then was dragging along in a desultory way, and that there was really very little to report. At the end of the second day the man whom I had spelled came back. He was a much older man than I, with years of experience, and he had always been a good friend to me. I told him my story and asked him what to do. I had been ordered to return to Boston on the midnight train, that night.

"Let me think," he had said. Then he lighted a cigar and began to walk up and down our room at the hotel.

"It is a chance," he said, finally, "but I think you ought to take it, both for your own sake and for —'s," naming the prisoner. Then, looking at his watch, "you come with me. I think we have time now."

As we walked through the town he told me what to do, and when we stopped before a large and handsome house, said:

"This is where the brother lives—the man with the red cross on his face. I have been here several times in the evening to see him. Ask for him and the servant will show you in to the study. I will tell the servant that I will wait in the hall. I shall be within easy reach of you."

I went in. The man I had come to see met me cordially. He had had much experience with newspaper men of late, he said, adding, "sad experience."

That gave me just the chance to lead up to what we had planned for me to say and I replied:

"No doubt; but I think your experience with me will be different from that with any of the others, for," looking him square in the eye, "I have come to accuse you of the murder of your brother, and to claim the reward of \$5,000 which you offer."

It was a chance shot, and I felt as a man must who has fired a cannon ball at short range

against what may be wood, or may be armor from which the shot will rebound to his own destruction.

This shot struck wood. The man started to deny me, but his lips made no sound. He put his hands to his face and sank back into the chair from which he had risen to meet me. I called softly to my companion, and he came in. When the man in the chair uncovered his face he could speak, and said, quietly enough:

"It is true. I have known it must come out unless I could fix it on some one else. If you will send for the proper officer I will make a full confession."

My companion turned to me. "Go for —," he said, naming the sheriff, "but do not hurry to get him back here. Stop on your way down and wire the night desk that I want extra copy for 'sports.' They will understand that, and the other boys here will not. It is half past ten, now."

When I left the room I heard him lock the door behind me. While I was gone he got an outline of the whole affair from the man locked in with him, and when I returned at midnight and a full confession was taken down, it was easy for him to fill in the details which would make a complete story. No other paper but ours had a line of it the next morning, and in view of its being so great a scoop we both felt justified in keeping back my personal connection with it, especially as the man's family begged us to do so.

The man died before he could be tried. When his estate was settled the executors, with the full consent of the heirs, quietly paid me the \$5,000 which he had offered as a reward. That is why I am not a reporter now.

A MODERN PRODIGAL.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY D. H. TALMADGE.

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THRASHINGTON, the wild one walked slowly along the street, his mind busy with a strange sensation. At intervals he stopped, looking about him, then breathed deeply and went on again.

"Same old town, same old air I suppose," he said to himself, "but it never made me feel like this before. I actually have a notion to run down to the old place and duplicate the foolishness of the prodigal son. I won't do it, of

course, but the notion is mysteriously strong for some reason or other. Let me see; it must be fifteen years—a long time to be lost to one's family and one's country. Fifteen years without a word to tell whether they are living or dead, or whether I am living or dead, which is fully as important. I wasn't wholly to blame. Father treated me shabbily and mother, though she looked as if it annoyed her, wouldn't take my part. So I passed out. I said I would never come back again—that thenceforth it should be as if I were in my grave so far as they were concerned, and the old gentleman smiled incredulously when I said it, but so it has been. I wonder why I came back. Because I had the money and a whim probably. It certainly wasn't because of any mawkish sentiment. London is mine and I am London's. My family and my birth are mere circumstances. But—but the air is different, after all."

He paused again, looking about him and sniffing with just a suggestion of contempt. There was a restaurant at hand, and, yielding to the seduction of the odors that wafted from the open door, he entered. Seated at one of the little tables he continued his meditations—if such staccato-like thoughts are worthy of the title—and as he meditated the old spirit of bitterness gradually resumed its sway and he felt more natural, which was in reality more unnatural. He was once more the outcast, the conscienceless cause of a mother's sorrow and a father's anger, the disgraceful—no, not that; it was no disgrace to do as he had done; he had, in his stubbornness and waywardness, taken what he considered to be the best course, that was all. He had tried honestly, he told himself, to do his duty and they would not accept it. He hoped they had suffered as they had made him suffer, for he had in the earlier days of his exile, felt pangs beneath his pride. He never felt these pangs now. He believed he had forgotten the past until this morning when, under the stimulus of the new old air, memory had awakened. It alarmed him to find that it was not dead and he struggled with it and put it down. He would not speak the first word of reconciliation were they to prostrate themselves before him and implore him with their eyes. Thus he told himself, and thus he believed.

After a time the victuals he had ordered were placed before him. He contemplated the array a moment before beginning to eat.

"Biscuits," he mused, "real, old-fashioned

biscuits such as mother—bah! there it is again. I'm becoming regularly soft. Everything in this confounded air says 'mother' or 'father.' It is disgustingly trying to a chap whose temper is naturally short, and—who doesn't care a snap of his finger about mother or father. I'll ship back to England jolly quick if this state of thing continues, and I won't go on a cattle steamer as I did the first time either. It will drive me to disgracing myself, that's what it will do, the atmosphere softening up a fellow's resolution and the very biscuits nagging him with reminders of things he doesn't care to remember."

He pulled the biscuit apart viciously and put a portion into his mouth, chewing it rapidly.

"It's good anyway," he admitted; "I believe it's the best thing I've tasted for years."

The next mouthful he masticated more slowly, sinking down into his chair comfortably, and gazing dreamily through the window at the passing crowds. Once he straightened up and shook himself.

"I'm getting some sort of a spell upon me," he thought. "Can it be possible there is opium in this cookery?"

He half raised his hand to call the waiter, then relapsed, smiling at what he was about to do. The crowds surged through the street, the cable car bells clanged, people brushed him as they came and went, but he noticed them not. He finished one biscuit and took another, putting it to his lips as one who knows not what he does. The movements of his jaw were very slow now, and the hard look in his eyes was gone. He was thinking—thinking of the old home, passively, submissively, for the first time in fifteen years. The spirit of forgiveness was in his heart. His pride was humbled. He was like unto a child that bows under the rod and is penitent.

"Father was harsh, but he was not unjust," he thought. "I tried him beyond endurance. I was angry because he would have restrained me from doing harm—doing harm to myself—yes, only to myself. I can see it now. We were alike, father and I, and mother was meek and uncomplaining. Blessed be the meek—blessed be mother! Did she ever cry I wonder. I never thought of that before. I never saw her weep, and yet she seemed of the kind that should weep. It is strange I never thought of it. If she didn't give way to tears, with the provocation she had, she must have been a martyr. Poor mother! I can see her now, standing by the kitchen table while father and I had our last words like brutes. And he was her husband and I was her only child. She grasped the edge of the table so hard that the lines stood out on the back of her hand and the knuckles showed white. The other hand was at her throat. She was fixing her dress I thought—I thought—but I was blind, blind, blind! It was her heart that was choking her, and she said nothing! How sweet the apple blossoms were that morning! It must have been just this time of year. I went through the orchard when I left the old place, yet I did not note the fragrance, for my heart was hot with passion—did not think of it—till now—and it was years ago."

His eyes were half closed, and he was oblivious of the flight of time. A touch on the shoulder aroused him. The waiter feared he was ill. He placed a ten dollar note in the man's hand, and watched him as he deftly wended his way to the cashier's desk. Then he essayed to eat, but the meat and vegetables were cold, and he passed into the street, forgetful of his change. Outside, he stood for a time beneath the sign that hung above the door—an anchor, emblem of hope—and then, with a sudden resolve, he buttoned his coat about him and walked rapidly away.

The village looked much as it had fifteen years before, but the faces were strange. Twice or thrice he saw people whom he knew, but they returned only an unrecognized stare when he looked into their eyes, and he passed on silently—on past the row of stores, past the old mill and over the bridge, into the land of his infancy. At the orchard gate he paused, drinking in the fragrance of the blossoms.

"It smells wonderfully like the grace of God," he thought, impetuously forming the comparison without heed to its form. "I believe I've been hungry for it all these years without knowing it. What a poor fool I am, with all my money that I have been so proud of—what a poor, mistaken, deluded fool!"

He smiled sadly, and followed the familiar path to the house. No one was in sight. He rapped lightly upon the door. He was conscious of a thick feeling in his throat, and his hand trembled. Yet he was calm. He felt vaguely that he was no longer responsible for himself; some force against which he was powerless was carrying him forward, and he no longer thought of resistance. The door opened, and a woman—a stranger—appeared, asking in rasping accents what he would have.

"My name," he said simply, "is Thrashington."

"And mine," she returned briskly, "is Smith."

He looked at the hard, seamed face dumbly. The woman, taking alarm at the expression of his face, partially closed the door. He stepped forward quickly, putting out his hand to prevent the action.

"Madam," said he, "I beg of you not to be alarmed. It did not occur to me that my name would not be familiar to you. My father owned this place. I—I was born here. Can you tell me where my parents are?"

"I don't know much about the Thrashingtons," replied the woman. "We're strangers here, and—and what do you want to know about your own parents for anyway? I should think you had ought to know as much about them as anybody if you're a natural son."

He bowed his head, and the words he spoke were barely audible.

"I am not—I have not been a natural son."

There is nothing in the world so attractive to the spirit of pity as the spectacle of pride humbled. The woman's tones softened.

"I am sorry," she said, "but I can't tell you anything except what I've heard the neighbors say. It won't be pleasant for you. Still, I don't know but what you deserve it. Your father is dead, and your mother is cooking in an eating house in the city. Mr. Rawlins knew the owner of it and got her the place. I've heard him say it was called the Anchor Cafe, or something like that. Our folks always eat there when they go to town. My husband eat there the last time he was up, and—"

But Thrashington was already beyond reach of her voice, hurrying back to the railroad station. The woman stood in the doorway till he passed from sight.

"Poor boy," she thought, "he is paying for his foolishness."

Then she slammed the door.

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How Roger Jerritt Raised the Mortgage.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY F. E. BURNHAM.

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ROGER Jerritt trudged along the turnpike, his hands thrust deep into the pockets of his dilapidated trousers, muttering the while to himself.

"Marse Puls'ver ain't done de Colonel no hurt," said the negro, doubling up his great fists, "he ain't never hurt nobody, an' I'd like to—"

"Hi there! Out of the road!" cried Colonel Lane, reining his horse, "do you want me to drive over you?"

Jerritt stepped mechanically to one side, glancing up at the carriage as it passed, and when it had gone shook his fist savagely after it.

Squire Pulsiver had mortgaged his estate to the Colonel and the unexpected had come to pass. The Colonel was anxious to add the Squire's plantation to his own, and the Squire, unable to meet his obligations, the Colonel had foreclosed, and after a week of fruitless scurrying around among his friends, trying to raise the necessary five thousand dollars, the Squire was about to surrender the estate which he had inherited from his father.

The last three days active preparations for leaving had been going on. Jerritt had assisted, moving about with a doleful countenance, far more disconsolate than the Squire himself, who was trying his best to be brave. And now Jerritt was off on the errand he dreaded most—to order Williams the teamster, to come for the first load of goods that afternoon, for somehow the Squire hated to go himself.

Jerritt stumbled as he entered the stable, catching the toe of his clumsy shoe on one of the cleats nailed down to keep the horses from slipping while entering or leaving the stable. Some one laughed but the negro did not notice the merriment.

"Marse Puls'ver wants yer to—send a—team—up afore noon," said Jerritt, approaching Williams.

No one laughed now. Somehow they all felt sorry for the faithful negro who had served the Squire all his life. They saw the great tears rolling down his cheeks and his broken voice touched their hearts.

"Yes, I'll be there all right, Rog," replied the teamster. "Keep a stiff upper lip my boy, may be there's better times ahead. Col. Lane is a rascal and I'd tell him so if he was here, this minute."

"Rog takes it mighty hard," said one of the men as the negro lumbered off. "He's quiet enough and always has been, but if I was in the Colonel's shoes I'd rather not meet him alone."

Meanwhile the Colonel returned home and left his team standing before the house, his wife seated in the carriage, awaiting his return from the library, intending to continue the drive.

Jerritt was slowly tramping home again, his eyes fastened upon the ground, his hands still deep in his pockets. The express from Nashville whizzed over the crossing twenty rods below the Colonel's mansion. Suddenly there was a wild clattering of hoof beats and Jerritt saw the Colonel's horse tearing down the road, the reins dragging in the dust.

An equestrian had left a spirited horse standing by the roadside less than two rods from where Jerritt was when the Colonel's team ran away. Quick as a flash the negro took in the situation. He saw the runaway and heard the scream of the Colonel's wife. Inside of five seconds he had mounted the fiery horse that he saw just ahead of him, and was off in hot pursuit of the vanishing carriage.

"Here, you black rascal!" yelled the owner of the steed, returning in time to see Jerritt digging his heels into the animal's ribs, "come back or I'll—"

The Colonel had seen his horse start, and running out of the house and into the street, interrupted the horseman's flow of words.

"The man's after my team, you imbecile," roared the Colonel, excitedly.

Jerritt, meanwhile, was getting all the speed possible out of his mount. Never had the horse known aught save kindness in the past and the furious kicks and blows goaded him on at a pace he had never shown before. On and on Jerritt flew, gaining perceptibly on the runaway, but with much ground yet to cover ere he could overhaul the Colonel's horse.

Suddenly the pursued showed a spurt of speed that quickly increased the distance separating him from Jerritt.

"Get! Get!" shouted the negro in his horse's ear, driving his heels furiously into the animal's flanks, beating him unmercifully with his hard hands.

And the horse did show what he could do. Maddened by the kicks and blows which Jerritt continued to shower upon his sleek sides, he bolted, and the manner in which he closed up the interval showed the metal of the horse.

"Hold on tight, missus!" shouted Jerritt as he passed the swaying vehicle. "Hold on tight! Tight!"

Like lightning the negro snatched at the horse's bridle as he rode neck and neck with the Colonel's horse. There was a short and sharp struggle for the mastery. With his left hand he reined his own mount until the animal reared upon his haunches; and with his right he yanked at the bridle of the Colonel's horse. A moment more Jerritt was master of the situation.

"Who are you, my brave man?" asked the Colonel, meeting Jerritt returning with the carriage and saddle-horse; he was near-sighted and he did not recognize the Squire's man.

Just then the negro remembered that which he had forgotten in the excitement of the moment. Remembered that before him was the man who was about to turn the Squire out of his house and for a moment he did not respond.

"Who am I?" he said, his voice rising, "I'll tell yo' who I am, Marse Lane, I'm Marse Pulsiver's nigger. What for yo' turn him out doors? He ever hurt yo'?"

"No, he hasn't done me any harm, Rog," said the Colonel, somewhat disconcerted, "but—"

"Then what for yo' take the ol' place away?" demanded Jerritt, interrupting the Colonel.

"Just a matter of business, Rog, business, that is all."

"Business!" cried the negro, with fine sarcasm, "yo' call business to turn ol' man out o' house an' home when he ain't done yo' no hurt? I wish I'd let yo' ol' trap gone to Jericho!"

"See here," said the Colonel, earnestly, "Rog, you have done me a good turn to-day. Let this unpleasant affair drop. What can I do for you in return? Rog I'll buy you if it costs me ten thousand dollars, buy you and set you free."

The Colonel was inclined to be forgetful at times and sometimes forgot all about there having been a war and that there were no more slaves.

"Buy me?" yelled Jerritt, "I'm free, Marse Lane, an' ef I wasn't I'd rather be Marse Pulsiver's slave a hundred years than belong to yo' fo' a minute!"

"Sho!" said the Colonel, smiling at his own forgetfulness and Jerritt's loyalty to the Squire.

Then for a moment neither spoke. The Colonel looked at his wife in silence and a very tender light came into his grey eyes and a solitary tear fell on the reins which hung loosely on the Colonel's knees.

"Rog," said the Colonel at length, laying his hand on the negro's shoulder, "jump in here and ride to the house with me; I want to talk with you."

For a moment the indignant negro hesitated. What if the Squire should see him with the Colonel? What would he think? Thus Jerritt reasoned with himself, but finally he complied and together they rode back to the house.

The Colonel took a number of papers from a pigeon-hole in his desk and presently began to write. Jerritt sat opposite him awkwardly fumbling his hat.

"You can't read, can you, Rog?" said the Colonel placing a document within a long envelope and sealing it.

"No," said Jerritt, his heart bitter, "no, Marse Lane, an' I don't want to, neither. I'd rather have a kind heart then read an' write like de president."

"Just so," replied the Colonel, soothingly. "Now take this letter to the Squire and don't lose it."

"What yo' sendin', Marse Lane?" asked Jerritt, a suspicion of something, he scarcely knew what, crossing his mind.

"Rog," said the Colonel, placing his hand kindly upon the negro's shoulder, "you thought me a hard man, and it was right, but there was a tender spot, and you found it. I don't hold anything against him now. He'll understand."

"Marse Lane, do yo' mean it?"

"Of course I mean it," said the Colonel, his eyes glistening, "and now go home, you baby."

Hurriedly Jerritt left the house, a great lump in his throat threatening to choke him ere he could reach home and lay the envelope in the Squire's hands. Never before had the sun seemed so bright as at that hour. Never before had the birds sung so sweetly. Everything was different than when he had left the plantation in the morning. Then, the birds sang because they were glad they were to be turned out, and the sun was glad, too. Now the birds sang more sweetly than ever because they rejoiced, knowing that all was well, and the sun rejoiced for a like reason.

A short distance from the house he overtook Williams' team, coming for the first of the goods.

"Hi, there!" sang Jerritt, running ahead of the team, "stop yer hosses, Marse Williams. We ain't goin' away, de Colonel sez so!"

"What's this?" demanded the teamster, reining his horses. "Did Squire raise the money, Rog?"

"De mortgage is all settled, Marse Williams," said the negro, not telling his part in the adjustment. "Just turn yer hosses round. Yer ain't wanted."

"If that's so, Rog, I'm glad of it," said Williams, backing his team, to turn, "I'd rather lose the job ten times over than see the Squire go."

"What does this mean?" demanded the Squire, meeting Jerritt at the gate a moment later. "What did Williams turn back for?"

"What for," Marse Pulsiver?" said Jerritt, showing his white teeth, "cause he ain't wanted. Marse Lane tol' me to hand yo' dis yere."

The Squire's hands trembled as he tore open the envelope and as he read a mist gathered before his eyes. When he had finished he looked a full minute into the honest face before him. Two tears rolled down his cheeks and as he grasped Jerritt's hand he did not trust himself to speak, but Roger understood.

FOILED.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY GEORGE A. BAKER.

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DON'T yer raise yer ugly hand to ther lad agin, or one of us will find a berth in Davy Jones' fleet!"

Old, grizzly, rough John Holland, able seaman aboard the Flying Fish, a trim clipper on her homeward voyage from Cadiz to Boston, spoke the words between his teeth, as with flashing eyes and heaving breast, he faced the ship's mate, Zenas Barker, who had cruelly struck a frail lad of

but twelve years; a stowaway who had crawled

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out of his hiding place when two days out. The mate had ordered the boy to the mast-head; but one look at the dizzy height caused him to pale and his body to shake as with the Chagres fever.

Holland had been the first one to discover the lad, and upon hearing his story had believed it and promised him his protection. In trembling tones he told the old sailor a story of a dead mother and a drunken stepfather, who beat him when he failed to bring him money to continue his maudlin spree and sent him supperless to his bed of straw.

"Take that, you dirty brat!" roared the mate, as he saw the lad hesitate, striking him with his open hand.

"Obey orders or die!" and the brute raised his huge clenched fist when John Holland stepped out from a group of his mates who were interested spectators of the scene.

Barker's eyes flashed gloomy forebodings for the old sailor who had dared to beard the lion in his den.

The captain strode forward at this moment. "What's up, Barker?"

"Holland's mutinied, sir."

"What! A mutiny aboard the Flying Fish? By the gods, man! you'll wish you'd never signed articles aboard this craft."

"Cap'n, I've never refused to obey an order, night or day, since I've sailed with you. But if ther mate strikes ther boy for not going to the top, with his ugly fist, I'll—I'll kill him if I hez to swing for it."

And they who listened knew that John Holland meant it.

Calling to the mate the captain walked aft, and for a few minutes they conversed in low tones together.

"Now, Barker, the whole forecastle is back of the kid and Jack Holland, so we'd better go slow and watch our chance when he's off his guard. When the sharks are through with their feast there will be no tongues left to tell tales."

With a smile on his face the mate ordered Holland to go below and the steward to give the lad "a bite o' hoss."

"Be on your lookout, Jack. Ther cuss means yer an' ther lad no good," whispered Bob Harding, a young athletic member of the forecastle.

"Why didn't yer let him strike me, Jack? I'm used ter it, 'n' it wouldn't got you inter trouble. You've bin the only friend I hez ever had, Jack, 'n' I'd rather he killed me than you should git hurted." And the little chap placed both hands on Jack's knees and looked up in his face pleadingly.

The old sailor choked back a sob and dashed back the brine from his weather-stained cheek. "Somehow, my lad, your comin' hez made old Jack better. It brings back other days when he wasn't at the beck and call of no man. My boy, ef I goes to Davy Jones you hez my trunk ther 'n' so long's I'm here you'll stay with me."

After dusk, a few evenings later, the mate might have been seen stealthily creeping out on the bow-sprit, and after a sweeping glance backward, he slashed twice at the footropes and made his way back to the deck, hiding an ugly-looking sheath knife beneath a tarpaulin that lay in the cockpit.

When the hour of midnight was near at hand, as the murderous mate had carefully reckoned, a squall struck the ship nearly throwing her on her beam ends.

"All hands on deck! Holland git out there 'n' tie up that jibtop's 'n' be d—n quick about it!" roared Barker, walking out to the heel of the bowsprit with a crafty look on his face.

Unsuspectingly Holland placed his weight on the weakened footropes and as the craft buried her knight-heads under the wall of seething foam, he was almost wrenched from his hold. After it had passed he stepped ahead, and as Barker saw his plans foiled by his not cutting deep enough into the ropes, he stepped over the bow and placed his burly form upon the partly severed strands.

At this moment a giant billow came thundering down on the ship and literally buried her in its depths. High above the roar of the storm arose the despairing cry of the mate, swept from his hold into the hissing, seething cauldron.

"They has both gone, but I see ther cuss of a mate jump ther ropes to throw Jack inter ther sea," said Bob Barnicle, scanning the foaming waters in hope to see a sign of his old mess-mate.

"There's Jack! Hooray! hooray!" they shouted, as the grizzly head of the old sailor was seen to rise on the crest of a comb and clutching the hanging footrope, he rapidly made his way, hand over hand to the deck, where willing hands assisted him to the forecastle. The stowaway sobbed and clung to his protector, who stood leaning against a berth, while the water flowed in little rivers from his soaked garments to the floor.

"When I felt myself goin' I thought I'd sailed my last y'e," said Jack. "But some-body up aloft yonder was keerin' fer old Jack 'n' placed the rope in my fist 'n' I hung on like tar ter a nigger's heel."

It was useless to attempt lowering boats to save the mate, and the Flying Fish was put away on her course.

From that day the Captain was a changed man and his men wondered at his sudden fear and trembling whenever the mate's name was mentioned.

John Holland with his little savings is living in a quiet country village in Massachusetts,

and carefully watches the progress of the "stowaway" in his studies at the village school and vows "ther lad shall have ernuff eddication to 'arn a livin' ashore."

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SUNSHINE, BOX 561, AUGUSTA, MAINE.

JEAN.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



IN THE days of her prosperity, Madame Le Mer had been a person of consequence, and her tall, commanding figure and strong face had gone almost as far to inspire respect and obsequiousness as the extensive cotton and sugar plantations which her husband owned on the borders of the Bayou Tiniere. But now the husband and the plantations and the prosperity were all things of the past, and Madame's soft, thick hair was as white as the cotton which had once made her name familiar to the brokers and merchants of lower Palatka Street; and under the relentless weight of years and affliction, her tall figure had become bowed, tremulous, and her strong face had grown wrinkled and sad and retrospective. The friends and acquaintances of her prosperity had drifted away with her falling fortunes, and now the only reminder of her former state was the title of Madame, and the respect it conveyed. Even the rich bourgeois who gave her washing and plain sewing spoke of her courteously as "Madame." Many of them did not know why; only, the old families did it, and, besides, there was a certain air of distinction about the tall, bowed figure that unconsciously commanded their deference.

Time was when the Le Mer family had had many representatives; but the war had taken some, and the fever had taken some, and the rest had followed the vanishing prosperity of the house and gradually been lost sight of. Now, there were only Madame and her tall, big-eyed grandson in the whole city. They lived in a shabby, two-room house near the wharves, and Madame washed and ironed and sewed, and Jean sold papers and ran errands and did chores, and between times he went to the public school on the corner; and in the evenings, when there was no work and no public school, his grandmother taught him from the lore of her own studious days in the pension in far away France.

At fourteen, Jean was already dreaming and planning for his future. He would be a physician and surgeon, like his father; and he would own cotton and sugar plantations and be good to everybody, just as his father had been. Only he did not say much of this to his grandmother. One day when he had mentioned it she had caught him to her with a wild, passionate "Non, non, mon cher! mon petit fils! N'oubliez pas votre pere! You are all that I have, little Jean, mon enfant! You must never leave me. Surely le bon Dieu can not ask more."

Since then Jean had kept his ambition to himself. He helped provide the few necessities for the house, and bought little luxuries for his grandmother; and even after these expenditures, was able to save occasional pennies from his papers and errands and chores to purchase books on the science he loved. As he grew older he longed for an opportunity to go away to the great medical schools, as his father had done. He worked harder, and began to store up dollars instead of cents; only, as his hoard increased, he would discover that his grandmother's clothing was getting shabby, or that there was some expensive food or cordial in market that would please her, and then his money would melt away. But it did not matter, he would tell himself consolingly, *la grandmere* was getting old and needed these things; there was plenty of time.

So he saved more money, and spent it for *la grandmere*; and hoarded again, and again lavished it on *la grandmere*. But all the time he was working and studying and thinking. He bought books when he could, and he borrowed books and pamphlets from the free library and from an old physician who was becoming interested in him. And this same old physician took him to the hospital and explained cases; and occasionally, even allowed him to assist in the work. At eighteen, Jean had a general knowledge of hospital practice, and his untrained course of reading had been modified and made useful by the advice and companionship of the old physician. But there was much yet for him to learn, and more and more he realized the necessity of spending a few years in a good medical college.

He was earning steady wages now as clerk in a drug store; but *la grandmere* was getting more feeble, and every day there were new things to be purchased for her comfort. The college was a long way off, but it would come, he told himself, confidently. Some day *la grandmere* would see the future as he did, and then her strong, true self would be the first to bid him go. For the present, he was young and could wait; he would not urge matters. *La grandmere* had suffered—ah! *le bon Dieu* knew how she had suffered. Few women were called upon to sacrifice husband and sons and brother in one short week. *Non, non*; he would not urge matters.

Every year there were rumors of yellow fever in the city, but only once or twice in a lifetime did it become the tidal wave of death which had desolated *la grandmere's* life. Jean had been only a child then, but each year it was brought home to him by the mute terror which the rumors brought into the dear old eyes. At such times he would draw her to him and promise never to leave without her consent.

The old physician had been a classmate of his father's, and had always treated *la grandmere* with tender deference and sympathy. One day he met Jean on the street and told him that he must not return to the hospital; there were cases of fever just brought in, and it would not be safe. So Jean waited, and a few days multiplied the cases to twenty; and then a few more days, and the city was hushed in the apprehension of a great terror. Business ceased, and those who were able fled to the hills, to the North, out to sea, anywhere to get away from the plague. The hospital was soon full, and there were not enough physicians and nurses to look after them; then new buildings were levied upon for the temporary use of patients; and then—the whole city became a hospital.

Jean had been working day and night at the drug store, but that was not enough. He had a fair knowledge of medicine, and there was a woeful lack of physicians and nurses. An appeal had been made to the country at large; but it would take time for volunteers to arrive, and just now every moment was precious. He left the drug store and went home.

"Thank God you are come, Jean," cried *la grandmere*, fervently, as he entered, "I have been counting up our money, and we have twelve dollars. It will take us back among the hills. We can get along some way, *mon cher*, and at least you will be safe."

But Jean threw his head back and looked at her silently; and *la grandmere*, after one swift, agonized glance at his set face, fell back into her chair with a low cry.

"I feared it would be so, *mon petit fils*, *mon pauvre petit fils*," she moaned. "*Le bon Dieu* has dealt severely with me, and I hoped that He would let this pass. 'Non, non,' as he was about to speak, 'I know what you would say. There are hundreds dying, and no one to minister to them. You would give your life—ah, *mon Dieu*! I know it is right. I have been through it before, and gave all I had. But it was hard, *mon petit Jean*. I am an old woman now, and not so strong as I was when your father and two boy uncles came and looked at me as you do now. Not one of them came back to me, little Jean—not one. Ah, *mon Dieu*! *mon pauvre petit fils*!' She rocked to and fro, and obeying a sudden impulse Jean sprang to her side and threw his arms across her shoulders.

"Non, non," he whispered, "I will not leave you. We will go back among the hills."

Madame shivered as though from a blow; and as she rose slowly from her chair there came to her face the same strong, resolute expression which Jean remembered to have seen far back in his childhood.

"It is right that you should stay, Jean," she said, simply. "I knew it all the time, but I was weak. May *le bon Dieu* overlook our frailties. 'Oui,' in answer to his look, 'you may leave me now. They need you more than I. But hold me close once more, little Jean; we may never see each other again. Now, *gardez vous bien!*'"

She was standing firm and erect when he looked back at her from the door; then he turned away, and gave himself and his thoughts to the duty before him.

Madame scarcely left her room during the terrible weeks that followed. Occasionally she heard hushed whispers along the sidewalk; and, every morning, the dull rumble of the dead cart, stopping here and there on the street to pick up its silent passengers. She did not listen for the footsteps of Jean; she had given him up.

Rumors reached her of physicians and nurses dying at their post, and of the gradual extension of the plague to other coast cities; but she scarcely heeded. She had given up her future, and now she was gradually falling back into dreaming of the past.

One day slow, uncertain footsteps shuffled along the sidewalk, and then the door opened and Jean stood before her, big-eyed and emaciated.

"The plague has run itself out," he said, wearily. "They have no further use for me." Madame looked at him wonderingly, incredulously; then, as she caught him in her arms a look of ineffable joy drove the expression of stony resignation from her face.

"*De bon Dieu* has blessed me," she said, reverentially, "even while I was cursing him. 'N'oubliez pas, *mon petit fils*.'"

CAMPING OUT.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



AMONG Indians, camping out is not a recreation, but a practical necessity. As game becomes scarce in one section, camp is moved to another; from river to lake, and from open country to forest, back and forth, as the exigencies of season and game demand. The life is hardy and is conducive to strong lungs and fleet limbs and clear eyes, and there is an exhilaration and fascination about it that appeals strongly to the imagination. The camp-grown brave who is afterwards "civilized" in some Eastern college, is more than apt to return to the free, untrammelled life as years crowd in upon him. Civilization is a shutting in from nature, and while it adds to comfort it inevitably circumscribes and dulls the imagination.

This becomes more and more appreciated as nations advance in civilization. The camp gives way to the cabin, and this to the encompassing walls and confined atmosphere of later dwellings. Then comes the long quest of awakening ambition, fortune, achievement, education, or whatever it may be—and this in a measure obtained, the wearied adventurers pause and gaze back over the trail they have conquered. Then with this first leisure comes a surging of the nomadic instincts they had thought subjugated, and they have a longing for the woods and fields, and for the wild, free animal life they had all but forgotten.

The new purposes and the old unconventional existence, are incompatible; but like labor and sleep, the one may be made stronger by the frank recognition of the other. Every year new recruits are added to the army of campers, and whether the tarrying beside still waters or among towering peaks be for a week or month, the brain and muscle laborers return to their work with renewed strength and reinvigorated purpose. There is a tonic among the balsamic pines and on the breezy lakes that physicians are quick to appreciate and prescribe, and everywhere it is becoming more and more understood that the most salutary drug is the one administered by homeopathic nature.

Already we are fast becoming a race of campers and now there is scarcely a student or a clerk, a business man or a man of leisure, but must have his outing; and it is lengthened from days to weeks, and from weeks to months, according to occupation and inclination. Every ocean beach and inland lake has its tents

WOMAN'S BANE IS WEAK LUNGS.

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he has succored, pour into his office in one continual stream from every quarter of the globe, for weak lungs are made strong, consumption, catarrh, the after effects of grip and all *wasting diseases* are positively and permanently cured by his great system of medicinal and nourishing treatment, a complete FREE course of which he so liberally offers to send to all who write.

Absolutely no conditions are attached to this open-handed offer.

All who are sick, thin, weak, afflicted with disease of lungs or tissue waste, are invited to send in their names for the free distribution offered by Dr. Slocum.

Simply send your name, postoffice and express address to Dr. T. A. Slocum, 98 Pine Street, New York City, when the complete free course of treatment will at once be sent you, with full directions for use in any case.

Do not delay, but write today, and please mention having read this in COMFORT.



EDITOR'S NOTE.—All readers of COMFORT anxious regarding the health of themselves, children, relatives or friends, can have Four Free Preparations of the Doctor's New Discoveries, as represented in the above illustration, with complete directions, by sending full address to Dr. Slocum's Laboratory, New York City.

and camp paraphernalia, and every clear running stream and forest covert its angler or amateur hunter or explorer.

After the discovery of gold in California, when the great rush to that region set in, camping out was a regular feature of the everyday life of the white man in the far west; and again during the four years from 1861 to 1865, the stern reality was experienced of a million men lodging in tents or upon the ground in the open field.

As a recreation in the United States, camping out seems to have begun on the sandy beaches of the ocean coast of New England, and thence to have extended to the picturesque inland lakes and ponds and river banks, and to the isolated recesses and plateaus of the mountains. Farmers took their families to the shore for a day's clam-bake, or a week's camping and fishing; overworked business men sought health and rest in the open air; students and school boys began to look forward to spending their long vacations in the woods and along the shore; and then—like a great tidal wave—almost everybody, from coast to forest recess and from valley to mountain top, began loading tents, provisions, camp kettles and fishing tackle into boats or wagons preparatory to setting out on their summer vacation.

Nor has the movement toward camp life been confined to boys and young men alone. The relaxation it offers overwrought nerves appeals to grown men and matrons, even as the mar-

velous and romantic side appeals to young girls. There is a freedom from restraint in the experience that is peculiarly attractive to those whose lives have been circumscribed by set rules, and no one who has spent a night in camp on the bank of some moonlit lake, or upon a mountain side that overlooks hills and valleys and plains, can ever forget the magical beauty of the landscape as night closes down and the weird light of the blazing camp fire flares out among the trees and encompassing shadows.

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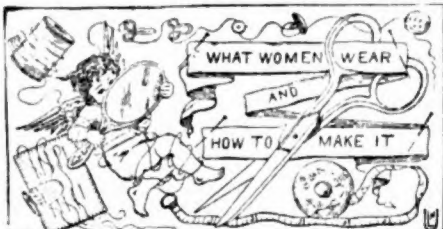
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GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



OF the most trying things relative to dress, during the summer, is the effort to keep one's head stylishly and freshly covered. Floral hats, no matter how seductive they may appear, no, nor how much they may cost, are bound to fade and grow pale and wan under the scathing rays of the summer sun, and of course when their freshness is gone their beauty has vanished. Which only goes to prove that

no matter how enticing flower hats are they are not for the woman who cannot afford a number of changes. Tulle hats come under the same ban as to durability. The first dampness and they are as limp as a rag, and their beautiful crispness reduced to a thing of horror; yet they are the most becoming things we have worn in many a day, and if worn with a due amount of discretion can be made to do duty the greater part of the summer. The most serviceable of all hats for country wear have been those of mill in white or pretty light colors, shirred over a wire frame and heavy with great masses of bunched mull with sometimes an osprey or stiff aigrette as ornament. Then there are the hats of yellow or dead white straw trimmed with wheat and field flowers with very often a smart bow of black velvet ribbon to give a touch of color. Leading milliners have been trying all summer to force the bonnet string or tie on many of the smartest hats, but as a usual thing have failed utterly. Occasionally a face is found to whom the tie of tulle or black velvet is becoming but it is a rarity, the general effect being to add to one's age.

As midsummer advances the toque in all its forms is appearing, offset by the beloved picture hat without which the summer girl is lost. Many of them are composed entirely of black tulle, or its substitute, mousseline de soie, shirred so closely as not to be at all transparent, and trimmed with large ball choux of the material.



AN ODD SILK WAIST.

This is the season when economical women are having their tailor gowns for the fall and winter built. They seize this opportunity when work is scarce to have their gowns made much less than would be the case a month or two later when all the feminine world is rushing pell-mell to their modistes and they are shoulder deep in work. One woman I have in mind, who thinks nothing of paying \$150 for a plain tailor-made, has taken time by the forelock, and has arranged for her gown this month to be just as elegant as usual, at a reduction of \$50 (no small consideration) because the season is so early, and work rather scarce. I was so fortunate as to see the design for her gown which is quite Frenchy in tone and reveals the trend of the coming fall styles. The material is medium weight Scotch cheviot in a mixture of creamy tan, golden brown and black, the whole effect being a soft, warm brown. The skirt is as clinging as ever, I might say even more so, and needs to be patted and coaxed into wrinkleless perfection about the hips, from where it falls in graceful lines well onto the floor, although somewhat shorter than has been the case this season. Grace is the one thing needful, so says the French designer, and to this end all the dressmakers strive. This skirt has an equestrian back, fitting snugly without being too tight, opening down one of the front seams, under the narrow band of brown velvet which ornaments it. The smart little coat is exceeding short, and perfectly tight fitting, with rounded corners, and perfectly flat over the bustle, all its edges bound with the golden brown velvet, the small revers as well, while the collar has an all-over facing of it. The entire gown is lined with a warm shade of golden brown satin, so soft and silky and clinging.



AN EFFECTIVE COAT.

and buttoned down the whole length of the front from the shoulder to the foot of the skirt, with enameled buttons matching the color exactly. Across the bust is draped heavy black lace, simulating an Eton jacket, with narrow pleatings of black mousseline de soie as an edging. The sleeves are plain and snug, while the

collar is extremely high and built of black lace.

Large and small scallops bound with velvet, or plain on the edges are used in profusion on many of the soft wool gowns being worn now for the first time. Sometimes a small button accentuates the points or narrow fancy braid outlines it.

Fringes are more popular than they have been for a number of years, and are being sold in the shops in all widths and in every imaginable color to match all the newest cloths. The present fancy is to use several widths of fringe on the same gown, the deeper for the skirt, the



OF NUN'S VEILING.

narrower for the bodice. A very pretty guimpe is shown having an inch wide fancy heading with a narrow half-inch fringe finishing it, to be used in rows on the deep circular flounce, so becoming to so many figures.

A dainty model in soft nun's veiling is shown here, having a fichu of mull exactly the same tint, and trimmings of narrow black velvet ribbon.

Separate waists are always a pleasure, and here is an entirely new design, simple but effective. It fits the figure softly, with no fitting seams save those under the arms; the trimming consists of ribbon quilting set on in scallops. The shirt sleeves are finished with a flaring cuff at the hand.

An effective little coat for cool days is shown here, built of heavy white flannel with no lining, and finished with straps on the edges.

POISONS FOR PLANTS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



QUESTION of the poisoning of soils by mineral poisons, used to kill insect and disease-producing fungi, is exciting the attention of the government Bureau of Vegetable Pathology at Washington, and experiments are being made with a view to ascertaining how far danger may arise from such causes.

What is known as Bordeaux mixture, for example, is composed of sulphate of copper and slacked lime. Constantly sprayed upon plants, it must deposit a certain amount of the metallic salts in the soil, which, not being dissolved and carried away by water, would necessarily accumulate and form in the course of time a source of peril not to be overlooked. Though no data exist upon which a reliable estimate can be made, it is imagined that a soil subjected continually to a sprinkling of the kind might become unsuitable for crops in the course of 100 years, the food plants raised on the land absorbing enough copper to injure consumers.

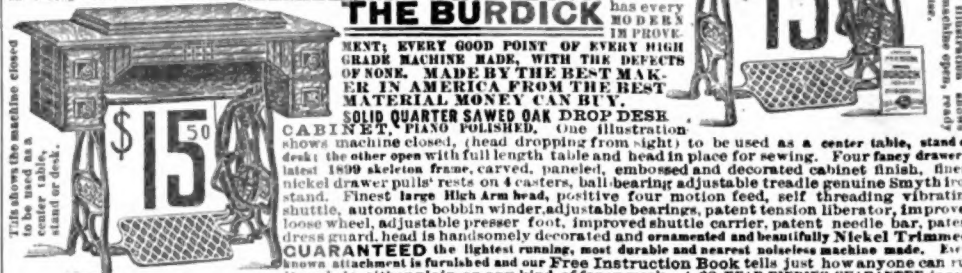
Again, Paris green, so commonly employed for destroying potato bugs and other noxious insects, is composed of arsenious acid and copper salts; in effect, it is a mixture of copper and arsenic—both of them deadly poisons. Most of the Paris green that is put on potato plants is strewn upon the leaves and not on the ground, but eventually the plants and their leaves are plowed into the soil, which thus takes up considerable quantities annually. Here likewise there is an obvious danger.

The properties of arsenic as an irritant poison are sufficiently well known. It often happens that people are sickened by this mineral in the wall-paper of the rooms they occupy. One of the worst features of the poisoning that is apprehended from soils in the manner suggested is that it would go on very gradually, so that the people attacked by it would have no notion as to the cause of their ailments. Consequently, the latter would not be successfully diagnosed by physicians in most instances, and the application of antidotes would not suggest itself.

That copper has caused death is disputed. Its salts act on the human system as a violent emetic, and on that account they are not usually dangerous; but the metal has a tendency to accumulate in the body, especially in the liver, and with old and sickly people it is likely to cause functional derangements. Workers in copper absorb it until they become so saturated with it that their eyes sometimes turn green.

Some authorities have claimed that copper is

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a normal constituent of many foods. More or less of it is found in the bodies of numerous animals, being originally derived from plants whose roots absorbed the salts of the metal from the soil in which they grew. A noteworthy instance is that of an African bird called the "turaco," which feeds on plantains. Its wing-feathers are colored red by a pigment containing six per cent. of copper, which is undoubtedly derived from plantains. Most of the common vegetables reveal on analysis traces of copper, and the metal is usually discovered in minute quantities in the liver and kidneys of human beings.

Much interest, therefore, attaches to the experiments being made by the experts in Washington, who are treating various kinds of soils with regular doses of Paris green, Bordeaux mixture, and other substances of the sort in common use by farmers and horticulturists. After a while, specimens of the soils will be analyzed in order to find out just how much poison they contain, and a reckoning will be made with the idea of ascertaining for how long a time such poisons can be applied without involving danger. It is feared that, unless some precautions are taken in this matter, whole populations at a future period may be sickened by plant-foods containing perilous percentages of metallic salts.

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The Director-General of Agriculture of Belgium has issued an order that all animals of the bovine species which have attained the age of three months shall thereafter always wear earrings. This is not intended for the ornamentation of the beasts, especially, but is a hygienic measure, intended to prevent the introduction into Belgium of any animals suffering from tuberculosis. Breeders are obliged to keep an exact account of all animals raised by them, and the ring (on which is engraved a number) is fastened in the animal's ear in the hope of thereby preventing the substitution of one animal for another.

A LADY TELLS HOW SHE SUPPORTS HERSELF AND FAMILY.

"I often read of ladies who work hard trying to earn enough to keep body and soul together and for their benefit I will relate how easily one can get along in the world if they only know how. There is a big firm in Pittsburgh that manufactures flavoring powders. I had tried them myself and knew they were splendid, so sent for samples and tried selling them. I found it so pleasant and easy that I have kept right at it and never make less than \$3 a day and often clear more than \$5. The powders go twice as far as the liquid extracts sold in stores and are much stronger. I sell from one to eight different flavors in each house. They are used for ice cream, custards, cakes, candies, etc., and are so delicate and give such a rich flavor that everywhere I go I gain a permanent customer. Those of your readers who would like to make money can get full particulars by writing to W. H. Baird & Co., 213 Telephone Bldg., Pittsburgh, Pa., who will give you a good start. I support myself and family nicely and we have a good many comforts we never had before."

No Money in Advance!

HIGH GRADE BICYCLES \$15.50 Shipped anywhere C. O. D. with privilege to examine. Latest styles for Men, Women, Boys and Girls, well made and durable. \$50 "Oakwood" \$24.50 \$50 "Arlington" \$22.00 No better wheels made. Others at \$10, \$12.50, \$15.50, \$17.50 & \$19.50; all splendid value. Buy direct from manufacturers, thus saving dealers' large profits. Write today for special offer. Illustrated Catalogue Free. **CASH BUYERS' UNION,** 162 W. Van Buren St., B-5, Chicago, Ill.



both old and young, now wants a few in the pocket at all times to nibble on—for with all the troublesome oils properly treated as they are in our special process of Curing and Roasting Peanuts, they have at last lost all terrors to weak stomachs, and are warranted not to become rancid, and to keep well in any climate. **FREE** We will send two thousand packages of these **Pepsin Salted Peanuts** out to respond-able parties who furnish proper references. You sell 12 ten-cent packages and **FREE** get a watch, a guaranteed good timekeeper. But to first introduce them quickly we send one package as a sample free to any one enclosing six cents for a three month subscription to COMFORT. You can then test them and see how many packages you want to start with. No attention paid to first orders without trial fee subscription. Write at once and be among the first to get the free packages. Address, **COMFORT FOOD DEPT C, Augusta, Maine.**

GIRLS Write for beautiful catalogue and learn what you get for selling our Pure Pepsin Gum to neighbors and friends. No money required in advance. Beautiful ring for selling a one dollar box. **GARFIELD GUM CO., Box P, Meadville, Pa.**

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\$75 Month and Expenses; no experience needed; position permanent; self-seller. **FRANK MFG. CO., Station 32 Cincinnati, O.**

LADIES TO DO PLAIN SEWING AT HOME. \$1.50 a day; four months work guaranteed; send stamped addressed envelope for particulars. **R. W. HUTTON & Co., Dept. 4, Philadelphia, Pa.**

LADIES WANTED to do writing at home. Good wages. No canvassing. Send stamped envelope for reply. **MISS MABEL E. MILLER, New Carlisle, Ind.** Please mention COMFORT when you write.

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Why They Married.	Love and Fate.
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A Broken Engagement.	Engaged a Governess.
A Wife's Suspicion.	Her Wedding Day.
The Deacon's Son.	Why He Proposed.
Two Jealousies.	The Need of the Hour.
Two of a Kind.	A Man of Honor.
Margery's Lovers.	Her "Fate."
Hard Luck of an Infant.	Easy to Forget.
Her Mission.	The Pursuit of Beauty.
Little Girl in Blue.	Mother's Outing.
The Tables Turned.	Outwitting Fate.
What Was It?	Viola Halted's Lover.
The Freckle-Faced Girl.	Lost and Found.
Gilbert Hartnett's Choice.	A Losing Game.
A Noble Sacrifice.	Caught at the Case.
Mr. Wilton's Office Boy.	Vivian's Lover.
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This beautiful embossed basket work silver finish set will be sent free to anyone who will sell two boxes of our **Active Liver Pills** at 25c. each. We give this valuable and beautiful set to reward you for speaking a good word for our medicine which acts quick and cures Constipation, Dyspepsia, Malaria, Rheumatism, Nervous disorders, etc., etc. We send the two boxes of **Liver Pills** free all charges paid, you simply sell them at 25c. each, send the 50c. to us and we forward the complete set all charges paid. You can easily sell it for 67c. if you so desire, the bar pin alone is worth more than the cost of the Pills—but we adopt this method to get our Great Family Remedy before the people quickly. Address **THE G. O. PILL CO., Augusta, Maine.**



The art of shelling and salting peanuts has just reached perfection. As a confection they are peerless, as a food unequalled. German scientists have spent years experimenting with Peanut Flour. It is found to contain three times the nutriment of wheat; and whole salted peanuts, being so much more palatable than wheat, have also been found with a slight addition of **Pepsin Salt** to be a sure cure for **Dyspepsia** and other stomach, kidney and liver troubles. Yes, even persons with **Bright's Disease** or **Diabetes** can now be cured. It is only necessary for old or young to eat a few of our **Pepsin Salted Peanuts** after meals or when in perfect health—but they can also be eaten in any quantity as a confection without the least distress or trouble to the weakest stomach. Children delight to feast on them and they are much better than candy. They also cure Heart Burn and Insomnia. To Form Part of the **Treat or Refreshments** at party gatherings, sociables, etc., they are indispensable, and to have them on the table as dessert is the best of form. Everyone both old and young, now wants a few in the pocket at all times to nibble on—for with all the troublesome oils properly treated as they are in our special process of Curing and Roasting Peanuts, they have at last lost all terrors to weak stomachs, and are warranted not to become rancid, and to keep well in any climate. **FREE** We will send two thousand packages of these **Pepsin Salted Peanuts** out to respond-able parties who furnish proper references. You sell 12 ten-cent packages and **FREE** get a watch, a guaranteed good timekeeper. But to first introduce them quickly we send one package as a sample free to any one enclosing six cents for a three month subscription to COMFORT. You can then test them and see how many packages you want to start with. No attention paid to first orders without trial fee subscription. Write at once and be among the first to get the free packages. Address, **COMFORT FOOD DEPT C, Augusta, Maine.**



CONDUCTED BY EVERETT G. WHEELMAN.

THERE is no end, apparently, to the minor inventions that are being patented for the use of bicyclers. The patent office records, both in this country and Europe, show a marked activity in the line of bicycle attachments, construction, details, fixtures and applications of the bicycle principle. Not a week passes but that there are numerous patents granted in this field, the number being only comparable, perhaps, to electric patents generally.

Leopold Bernheimer of New York has added a device to the bicycle lamp by which pedestrians can tell at a glance whether the light they see pointing at them is on a bicycle at rest or in motion. It consists of a disc of colored glass, preferably red, in front of the lantern lens. When the wheel is in motion this is rapidly rotated by a wind wheel operated by the wheel's passage through the air. When the wheel is at rest the interrupter is also still.

Roller skates with pneumatic tires, although several years old have made little progress in America, but there are several patterns on sale in the athletic goods stores. They are designed for over hill and dale and not merely for recreation upon the smooth floor of a rink. The wheels are three inches in diameter and an expert can make a speed of ten miles an hour over a sidewalk or country road of average smoothness and firmness.

Another novelty is a rawhide-covered link chain. The rawhide cover is applied to the surface of the links and held in place with clamping blocks secured to the opposite sides for the purpose of affording greater traction between the individual links and the sprocket wheel.

A puncture proof tire is claimed to be obtained by the combination of a flexible outer cover and a puncture proof shield inclosing an ordinary rubber tire. The shield consists of a layer of cork around the periphery of the rim and the circumference of the inflated tire, with a layer of celluloid on the top of the cork and a waterproof cement uniting the two. Outside of this is the flexible outer rubber covering which is attached to the rim proper. A composition for repairing leaks in punctured tires is described in another patent as composed "of a heavy, nonoleous liquid consisting partly or entirely of glycerine and containing a gelatinous mineral substance in suspension."

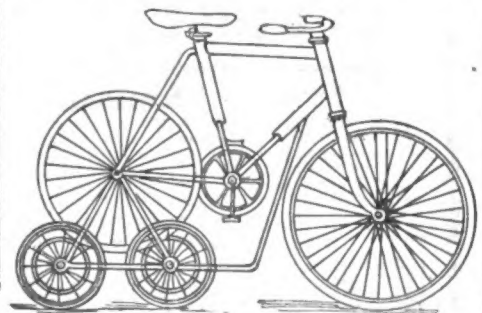
Something to suit the tastes of the crack-jacks and that numerous army who fancy uniqueness in all things is to be found in the designs of a new set of handle bars. Ever since the ram's horn handle bars made their appearance, their shape has become more and more exaggerated, but it would seem that these bars are extravagant and striking enough in their outline to please even the most exacting fiend.

A Brussels, Germany, man has invented a bicycle frame that is not rigid. The saddle post stands upright from the crank axle. At its base two strong steel springs are securely attached which bend outward and are fastened to the front and rear forks respectively by metal rods. The entire fore part of the frame is independent of the rear part, and when riding over rough ground the jars and shocks are taken up absolutely by the springs in the wheel. People who have tried it claim that it is the easiest-riding wheel that they have ever used, and its construction is strong and dura-

tension foot hinged to the frame and, when not in use, suspended from a hook placed for the purpose beneath the saddle.

Then there is the convertible tandem shown in the cut. This machine is jointed in such a way that it is readily taken apart and used as a tandem or as a single wheel. When this comes onto the market, what a convenience it will be for the family man!

After patenting all the individual parts of a bicycle hundreds of times over, the bicycle inventor has turned his attention to the costumes to be worn, which have been similarly treated. The large number of women's garments patented and, strange to relate, most of them by men, should surely bring forth the much sought ideal garment before long. Men's clothing not being so complicated or requiring such delicate and exact adjustment of parts, has not received such extended attention, but the patented convertible trousers shown embody a good idea. This patent covers an internal circular cuff united to each leg below the knee of the ordinary long trousers to cover the inseams and constitute a contracting



FRICTION-GEARED BICYCLE.

band with the trousers when the latter are turned up. On doubling up the bottoms of the trousers legs several times the final roll renders the cuff external, causing it to appear on the outside, thus giving the finished appearance of knickerbockers with golf extensions.

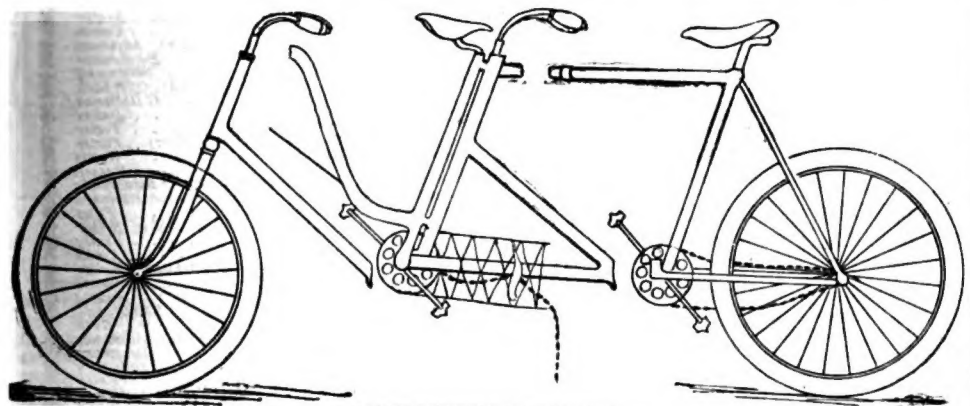


THE BELIEF in the magic power of precious stones dates back to ancient times.

The Shah of Persia always wears a cube of amber around his neck, and among other properties it is supposed to have the power of rendering its wearer invisible. It is said to have fallen from heaven in the time of Mahomet.

Disraeli wore a ring set with a sardonyx, which is supposed to bestow the gift of eloquence.

Upon the birth of every Rothschild's girl baby six pearls are purchased, each costing five hundred dollars, and upon each birthday six more pearls are added, so that when the young lady is of an age to make her bow to the world she has a magnificent collection of pearls.



A CONVERTIBLE TANDEM.

ble, although it is built as lightly as the ordinary rigid-frame bicycle.

A bicycle built on the principle of the Holman Locomotive has been conceived by a Chicago grocerman. He went to work with such tools and materials as came handy and got together a rough wheel which he says has demonstrated the soundness of his conclusions. "Of course the principle is not mine," he says, "but I am the first man to think of applying it to a bicycle and as such the patent office has protected my rights. What I claim is that any average rider can make from forty to fifty miles an hour on this style of wheel while riders of the same class are going fifteen or twenty miles on the ordinary safety. The increase in speed brings no increase in exertion—it is as easy to pedal forty miles an hour on a friction wheel as it is to run ten miles on those now in use."

His latest wheel is of the chainless variety; the power is obtained by a smooth-faced pedal wheel revolving against a large driving wheel, which in turn imparts motion to the ground wheels.

A cycling amateur photographer recently exhibited his combined bicycle pump and camera holder and his bicycle tripod. The former is an ordinary pump fitted with screw threads at the large end while the nipple of the rubber tube is screwed and fits in the brass nut in the camera. The tripod consists of an ex-

The Emperor of Germany wears agate, which is said to insure long life, health and prosperity.

In one of the most beautiful parks at the Spanish capital there is a statue of the patron saint, and around the neck of the statue there is a chain from which is suspended a most beautiful ring of pearls and diamonds. The ring was made for the present king's father, and he gave it to his first wife, Mercedes, for a betrothal ring. She died soon after her marriage. The ring then went to Queen Christina, who soon died, and then it was given by the king to his sister who died within the month. The ring then passed to the daughter of a Duke, and in less than three months she, too, lay dead. The king then put the jewel into his own treasure box, and before the year was out he was dead. It was then thought best to put the ring out of the family altogether, and so it was hung around the neck of the statue of the patron saint, and it does not need a guardian, as it is looked upon with horror by all, and no one could be induced to appropriate it.

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Send us only 5c. and we send you Six Gold Plated lever collar buttons, either for Gentlemen or Ladies. This can only be done to introduce our great catalogue of Novelties. 5 cents for 6. Write to-day to COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

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Out this ad. out send to us with \$1.00 and we will send you this HIGH GRADE 1899 MODEL \$50.00 VICUNA BICYCLE by express C. O. D. subject to examination. Examine it at your express office, and if you find it a genuine 1899 model High Grade \$50.00 VICUNA, the grandest bargain you ever saw or heard of, and you are convinced it is worth \$10.00 to \$15.00 more than any wheel advertised by other houses up to \$25.00, pay your express agent the balance, \$14.95 and express charges.

THE VICUNA IS COVERED BY A BINDING GUARANTEE. Frame is 23 or 24 inch, made from best seamless tubing, finest two-piece Deaton hanger, finest full ball bearings, Mason arch crown, enameled black, chrome or maroon, highly nickel finished, Delhi padded saddle, up or down turn handle bars, best Doyle pedals, HIGH GRADE GUARANTEED REGAL PNEUMATIC TIRES, fine leather bag, complete with all tools and repair outfit. ORDER TODAY. YOU CAN MAKE \$50.00 EVERY MONTH SELLING THESE WHEELS AT \$25.00. Catalogue FREE. (Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.)—Editor.

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.) Fulton, Desplaines & Wayman Streets, CHICAGO.

I T is interesting to note the prices which the government paid for the private yachts it bought during our war with Spain. The Penelope, afterwards called the Yankton, cost \$125,000. Mark Hanna's "Commanche", afterwards called "Frolic" cost \$115,000. The Merrimac, cost \$430,000. The Corsair afterwards the Gloucester, \$225,000. The Scorpion, \$300,000. The ambulance ship Solace was purchased for \$600,000. The Harvard and Yale were the ocean liners New York and Paris, and for the use of these two boats Uncle Sam paid \$2000 a day throughout the whole war.

Boys & Girls

We are giving away Watches, Cameras, Solid Gold Rings, Sporting Goods, Musical Instruments & many other things. We are selling 18 packages of Royal English Ink Powder at 10c. each. Every package makes 50c. worth of fine ink. We ask no money—send your name and address & we will forward you 18 packages with premium list and full instructions. When you get the Ink Powder send the money to us and select your premium. This is an honest offer. We trust you. Don't lose this grand opportunity. Write for the outfit today. Address all orders to IMPERIAL INK CONCERN, 22 Adams St. Oak Park, Ill.

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W ALKING fish are certainly a rarity—and yet the London naturalists have at last captured some. They were first found in a dry place and were thought to have been left there by the tide; further observation, however, showed that the fish came there voluntarily; they leap from stone to stone, as a frog does, but do not resemble a frog, as they are about the size of a small English minnow, and have two very strong breast fins, which they use as propellers.

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Send us your address and we will show you how to make \$3 a day absolutely sure; we furnish the work and teach you free, you work in the locality where you wish, and we guarantee a clear profit of \$1 for every day's work absolutely sure. Write at once. ROYAL MANUFACTURING CO., Box 742, Detroit, Mich.

Salary \$780 Straight, bona fide, paid trustworthiness, responsible, reliable house. Ref. enclosed. Enclose self-addressed, stamped envelope. THE DOMINION COMPANY, Dept. B Chicago.

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IF SICK send a lock of your hair, name, age, sex and 4 cents in stamps and will diagnose your ailment. FREE DR. J. C. BATDORF, Dept. 15 Grand Rapids, Mich.

\$5.00 SHAVING SET FREE

for selling only six of our Electric Shavers. We want to prove there is a sure prevention and cure for R. Lane Back, La Grippe, Coughs, Croup, Rheumatism, Etc., etc., and will send you one of our 25c. Plasters which you are to sell and return the money (\$1.50) to us, and we will send you, all charges paid, the elegant Shaving Set packed in a case eight inches high, six inches wide and five inches high. The combination consists of 1 Royal Steel Swedish Razor, single value, \$3.00; 1 Genuine, Horseshoe, Double, Reversible, Canvass-back, Nickel-plung, Ebonized handle Razor Strop, value \$1.00; 1 Real China Shaving Mug; 1 Cake Star Shaving Soap; 1 Best Bristle, large handle Leather Brush; 1 Cake Perfumed Lump Magnesia; 1 Stick rich perfumed Cosmetic, making a grand \$5.00 combination. Every man should have an outfit in the house for emergency use. Every woman should see to it that either her Father, her Husband, her Brother or her Sweetheart has one of these outfits. They make the best presents one can give to a gentleman. Don't wait but send to-day for Plasters. One agent sold the six in six minutes. Address THE G. O. PLASTER CO., Box 1229, Augusta Maine.

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Place your finger on your pulse and see if your heart beats regularly and steadily. If there is a single skipping or irregularity of the beats, your heart is weak or diseased, and there is no telling how soon it will stop beating altogether. Heart troubles, dangerous as they are, can be instantly recognized by all. No doctor can tell better than you if your heart is out of order. But remember that irregular or skipping beats are only one symptom, and in many cases are not found. Any of the following are just as positive and sure:—

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Fluttering, Palpitation, Shortness of Breath, Tenderness, Numbness or Pain in the Left Side, Arm or Under the Shoulder Blade; Fainting Spells, Dizziness, Hungry or Weak Spells; Spots Before the Eyes; Sudden Starting in Sleep; Dreaming, Nightmare, Choking Sensation in Throat; Oppressed Feeling in Chest; Cold Hands and Feet; Painful to Lie on Left Side; Drowsy, Swelling of the Feet or Ankles (one of the surest signs), Neuralgia Around the Heart. Persons having even one of these symptoms should not delay treatment a single day.

Medicine Free to All. If you have been treating yourself for stomach, lung, kidney or nervous disease, and have failed to find a cure, the chances are 9 in 10 that your trouble is in your heart. Hundreds of such cases are found every year. I want you to send me your name and address at once, so I can send to you for trial a box of my celebrated Heart Tablets absolutely free of charge, by mail, prepaid. Don't fail to write me if you have a single one of the above symptoms. I can cure you beyond any question, and will send the free tablets to prove it to you personally. Delays are dangerous. Inclose stamp for postage. Address DR. AUSTIN ALBRO, Box 962 Augusta, Maine.

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August marks the tercentenary of the great Flemish artist Vandyck. A special issue of postage stamps has been made and a great exhibition of his most celebrated paintings is to be seen at the Hague. No royalty that he painted is so charming as the fair young queen who leads her subjects in showing honor to the painter on this three hundredth anniversary.

Henry Ward Beecher once apostrophized August as the "Fire month." It has lost none of its old time reputation but the American people have begun to realize that we have a tropical climate for a few months in the year. By dressing, living, working and eating up to that idea they have a much greater degree of comfort than in the days when the summer vacation was an unknown quantity.

A recent scientific proposition is the building of houses of glass. These are so hard as to be practically indestructible and he who lives in one of these glass houses may throw all the stones he pleases in utter disregard of the old proverb. The bricks cost no more than those made of ordinary clay. Glass is a nonconductor and the lightning rod man will have to go out of business when glass houses become common. Some specimens of houses of this new building material are to be found in France. One writer grows enthusiastic over the soothing effect produced by the pale green light that came through his glass walls.

Spain's session to Germany of the twenty islands of the Ladrone group and the remark of the Queen Regent "It is useless for Spain to retain such minor appendages of our ancient empire" brings strongly to mind the extent of that empire. In the height of her power Spain ruled over Spain, The Netherlands, Austria and Portugal. Her King Charles was elected Emperor of Germany. Nearly all of South America, and much of North America was under the control of the Emperor. His successor Philip II. had for his crest a horse leaping at the sun with the motto "The earth is not sufficient." The tragic contrast of the Spain that was and the Spain that is, is scarcely paralleled in nations.

"Mr. Dooley" seems to have made the hit of the year with his shrewd comments on the world as it is. The Chicago reporter who began to air his sentiments through the words of the Roscommon Irishman has found his readers grow from those of the Chicago newspaper to the English speaking world. One great point in favor of Mr. Dooley is that his remarks are very quotable. Nothing more to the point in regard to the "goings on" in France has been written than Mr. Dooley's remark, "The French are an onaisy and a thrubbled people." For the past year France has seemed to be on the borders of revolution. They take themselves so seriously that occasionally they force the rest of the world to attention in spite of its opinion that nothing really serious can come of the perpetual hysterics.

English as "she is spoke" in America seems to have a peculiar vitality. In spite of our mixed population drawn from every nation of the world and speaking all tongues and dialects, the per cent. of English speaking people is far in advance of all others. While many adults fail to learn the language of the country the second generation speak it as though it were their mother tongue. A large percentage of the native born inhabitants of the British Isles cannot speak English—the language of the nations for thousands of years. Over half a mil-

lion Welshmen speak Welsh only and in the Highlands of Scotland nearly fifty thousand speak Gaelic. There are nearly forty thousand Irishmen who speak Erse, the native Irish tongue. In all, six languages are spoken by native born inhabitants of the British Isles. "United States" evidently has a power of growth greater than that of English as spoken in England.

One of the most significant remarks made at the Woman's Congress in London was the one that designated woman's clubs as a feature of a transactional stage in the woman question. The separations of the sexes and the theory that woman is to have a separate place in the world's effort will pass where woman has maintained her right to the equal position that she claims no reform or change of public sentiment was ever made without radical effort. Women have felt that they must alone make the struggle for equality; when it has been won more natural conditions will follow and "Woman's Congress" will be unknown. Women will quietly take their places at the general meetings of the professions they may follow—not because they are women but because they are lawyers, or doctors, professors or ministers, artists or journalists. When that day comes it will have been made possible through the efforts of pioneer women along these lines and it is these women who have made a great success of the London meeting of the International Congress of Women.

The different "Fresh air" societies in large cities are actively engaged in sending poor children for a week of pure air and wholesome food. The people of the rural districts have ably assisted in this thoughtful generosity for many years. Side by side with this effort for the brightening of life to thousands of poor people has grown and developed a system of out-door amusement in the cities. It was found that many children became lonesome at the separation from parents and familiar scenes and that this mental unrest prevented them from receiving the full measure of benefit. Plans have been matured by means of which children with their mothers are given a day's outing, returning home at night. In New York vast recreation piers have been built and opened to the public. Music is furnished and here the tired workers with their children may forget the cares of the day and breath fresh salt air that has not swept over a great city. The open air gymnasium is a feature that has been introduced but recently but which meets with most unqualified praise. Horizontal bars, rings and poles are provided and from the moment the gymnasium is opened until it closes there is an eager throng waiting for the individual turns at the apparatus. Many of these gymnasiums are supported by the city while some are maintained by private funds. They mean amusement and recreation but more than that they mean the development of a higher physical standard in the cities. There is an ethical side as well as a philanthropic one, for the sound body helps the sound mind and the sound mind means a decrease of crime. In hundreds of the public schools the playgrounds are thrown open at certain hours of the day and an instructor is provided whose duty is to teach the children how to play. Piles of sand are placed in the yards and the smaller children are allowed to play as they choose. The summer is growing to be the happiest time of the year to poor children in the cities that are taking an intelligent direction of summer schools, playgrounds, recreation piers and open air gymnasiums. Under their influence the slums are vanishing and "slum children" are being trained into intelligent citizens.

The public school system of America is a just course of pride to our citizens. The fact that these schools are absolutely free schools and that the opportunity for an education can be grasped by all is the corner stone of our idea of government. In spite of this fact the public school is often the subject of severe criticism. It is no doubt true that our methods might be improved in many ways. As a nation we can receive much benefit by a candid observation of some features of foreign schools. We claim that the school should fit for life and yet we have failed to recognize the part that technical training plays in the actual work-a-day world. We have trained the mind but left the hand totally unskilled. This we have striven to correct in late years by the introduction of mechanical drawing and manual training with its branches of cooking, dressmaking, wood carving and like subjects. Switzerland is far ahead of us in some respects for our sister republic provides six different grades of schools above the primary and many of these a professional housekeeping school. The pupils in one of the best of these schools at Geneva, number about two hundred. The ages are from twelve years up. Thirteen hours per week are given to the usual studies above the elementary grades but seventeen hours are demanded for the special technical work of the school. Geometry is taught with such a practical application as the drafting of a pattern for a dress sleeve. Cooking, washing and ironing, and chemistry as applied to foods are carefully studied. The children cook the dinners which they eat and they are given a week's dinners for the sum of forty cents. The bill of fare includes soup, meat and dessert. While we have included some features of this plan in our public school work we have but few cities where a school is devoted in the main to this training. It is safe to say that five-sevenths of the girls graduating from the High schools would find this practical training of more benefit as a preparation for life than the surface knowledge of mathematics and languages which they acquire under the name of culture. The part of a girl's training that includes a knowledge of cooking, sewing, etc., was once acquired at home. The mother was the teacher and the home was the school for this training. This is still true to a limited extent in many country homes. It died out first in the cities and it is there that manual training was first introduced in the schools. The country schools need this training in sewing at least. During the summer vacation schools are kept open in most of the large cities. Manual training is a very important part of the work. At the close of the session which is in August an exhibition

of the work is made. The work in sewing done by these children is surprising. This practical turn to education will surely develop, although as yet we are far behind many foreign nations in this line.

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No.	PIANO OR ORGAN.	No.	VOICE AND PIANO OR ORGAN.
165	American Liberty March	2	Annie's Love. Duet for Sop. and Ten.
101	Ancients Abroad. March—Two Step	27	Ave Maria. From Cavalleria Rusticana Mascagni
181	Auld Lang Syne. Variations	140	Beacon Light of Home
187	Austrian Song. Op. 69, 1	44	Beautiful Face of Jennie. The
37	Battle of Waterloo. Descriptive	134	Beautiful Moonlight. Duet
179	Beauties of Paradise Waltz. 4 hands	162	Ben Bolt. of "Tribby" fame
65	Bells of Cornville. Potpourri	200	Bridge. The. Words by Longfellow
213	Black Hawk Waltzes	34	By Normandale's Blue Hills
51	Bluebird Echo Polka	192	Can You, Sweetheart, Keep a Secret?
193	Boston Commandery March	122	Changeable
107	Bridal March. from Lohengrin	214	Childhood's Happy Hours
67	Bryan and Sewall March	138	Christmas Carol
133	Cadenes and Scales in all Keys	190	Come When the Soft Twilight Falls
1	Catherine Waltzes	168	Coon's Breach of Promise. Cake walk
145	Clayton (Adjutant) March—Two Step	92	Cow Bells. The. Boyhood's Recollection
76	Cleopatra's March	123	Crucifixion. The. Grand
81	Coming from the Races Galop	70	Dear Heart. We're Growing Old
111	Constance. Romance	128	Don't drink, my Boy, tonight. Temp.
211	Corn Flower Waltzes	50	Easter Eve. Sacred
41	Crack Four March	19	E Duino Where 'E Are. Comie
72	Crystal Dew Waltz	17	Embracing Waltz song
183	Dewey's Grand Triumphant March	180	Far Away
103	Echoing Trumpets March	182	Father is Drinking Again. Temperance
121	Electric Light Galop	126	Far from the Heartstone
91	Estella. Air de Ballet. Very fine.	152	Flag of Our Country. Patriotic
107	Ethel Polka. Strauss	156	Flag. The. Quartette
155	Evergreen Waltz	144	Flirting in the Starlight
77	Fifth Nocturne	8	Flossie. Waltz Song
69	Flirting in the Starlight. Waltz	138	For a Dream's Sake
97	Fresh Life	36	For the Colors. Patriotic
177	Frolic of the Frogs	96	For You We are Praying at Home
60	Full of Ginger. March Galop	160	From our Home the Door
183	Golden Rain. Nocturne	202	Give a Kiss to Me
147	Grand Commandery March—Two Step	178	God Bless My Kind Old Mother
53	Greeting of Spring. Op. 21	204	Golden Moon
185	Her Bright Smile Haunts Me Still	150	Gypsy Countess. Duet
173	Hobart's Serenade	166	Heart of My Heart
139	Home, Sweet Home. Transcription	184	I Can't Forget the Happy Past
157	Impassioned Dream Waltzes	74	In Sweet September
131	Jenny Lind polka. Four hands	188	In the Starlight. Duet
157	Last Hope. Meditation	28	Juanita. Ballad
195	Leap Year Serenade	98	Kathleen Mavourneen
105	Let's (Gen'l) "On to Cuba" Galop	81	Let the Horseshoe over the Door
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45	March Winds Galop	130	Kiss that bound my Heart to thine
207	May Breezes. Four hands	164	Labrador Watch. Duet
140	McKintley and Hobart March	146	Let the Mocking Bird
55	Memorial Day March	48	Little Boy Blue. Solo or Duet
131	Monastery Bells. Nocturne	154	Little Voices at the Door
89	Morning Dew. Op. 18	96	Lost Chord. The
61	Morning Star Waltz	106	Lottie Bell
125	Musical Box. The. Caprice	28	Love Me Faithful
137	My Love Polka	68	Lovely Little Nellie Dwyer
125	My Old Kentucky Home. Variations	25	Lullaby. Do you think of me now?
87	National Anthems of Eight Great Nations	112	Massa's Sleeping in the Churchyard
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135	Nightingale's Trill. Op. 81	52	Mother's Cry. A. (Salvation Army)
171	Old Folks at Home. Transcription	124	Mother's Welcome to the Door
171	Old Oaken Bucket. The. Variations	54	Musical Dialogue. Duet
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83	Oretta. Waltz	76	My Home by the Old Mill
197	Our Little Agnes. Waltz	110	My Little Lost Irene
19	Our Love Waltz	170	My Old Kentucky Home
79	Please Do Waltz	94	Old Folks at Home (Swanee Ribber)
193	Poet and Peasant Overture (Suppe)	60	Old Glory. National
167	Red, White and Blue Forever. March	102	Old Sexton. The
143	Richmond March—Two-step	104	On the Banks of the Beautiful River
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149	Ruth, Esther and Marion Schottische	108	Outcast. An. Character Song
149	Salem Witches March—Two Step	174	Parted from our Dear Ones
75	Scherzettino. Op. 48	100	Picture of My Mother. The
189	Schubert's Serenade. Transcription	148	Poor Girl didn't know. Comie
123	Silvery Waves. Variations	56	Requies. Sacred
169	Smith's (General) March	208	Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep
31	Song of the Voyager	142	Rosemonde
22	Souvenir March Song of 1890 K. T. Parade	80	See Those Living Pictures
95	Spirit Lake Waltz	88	Shall I Ever See Mother's Face Again?
151	Stave Song. The. Imitation of Nature	136	The Sleeps among the Daisies
109	Storm Mazurka	124	Softly shine the Stars of Evening
198	Sultan's Band March	210	Son's Return. The
209	Sweet Long Ago. Transcription	120	Storm at Sea. Descriptive
115	Tornado Galop	102	Sweetest Song. The
103	Twilight Echoes. Song without words	46	That Word was Hope. Waltz song
113	Under the Double Eagle March	118	There's a Rainbow in the Clouds
129	Venetian Waltz	206	There's Sure to be a Way
205	Village Parade Quickstep	158	Thinking of Home and Mother
7	Visions of Light. Waltz	116	'Tis True. Dear Heart, We're Fading
203	Whirlings at Eve	108	Tread softly, the Angels are calling
93	Waves of the Ocean March	38	True to the Last
59	Wedding March	64	Vicar of Bray. The. Old English Song
85	Windsome Grace. A perfect gem.	62	Your Mother's Love for You
119	Woodland Whispers Waltzes	84	What are the Wild Waves Saying? Duet
105	Zephyr Waltz	58	When the Roses are Blooming Again
		86	When Winter Days Have Gone
		186	Whistling Wife. The. Comie
		212	Why am I ever Watching

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FOLLOW THE FLAG.

TWO STEP.

W. G. WILMARTH.

INTRODUCTION.

The musical score is written for piano and includes an introduction, a main section with a 'Trio' section, and a final section. Dynamics include *mf*, *p*, *ff*, *pp*, *f*, and *cres.* (crescendo). The tempo is marked *Vivace*.

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MUSIC THAT PLEASES.

Readers of COMFORT who play the above piece will be pleased with the brilliancy of this two-step, which like many of those lately appearing as candidates for public favor is patriotic and military in its intention. Since Sousa introduced the swing and rhythm of these popular two-steps there have been a vast number of them given to the public but the above number is among the best. We are pleased to be able to give our readers such a fine example of this catching style of music, which is sure to be appreciated as soon as heard. One of the most gratifying events in the life of COMFORT has been the favor with which our monthly publication of good music has met in the estimation of our six millions of readers. It was with much hesitation that COMFORT originally undertook this music department, for uncertainty as to its desirability ever lurked in the editor's mind. However, all doubts were at once set to rest when trial was made and almost instant appreciation and commendation from our friends resulted.

It was but a step to another idea, the publication of sheet music at low prices. With high-class modern machinery COMFORT could not understand why sheet music could not be produced at a low rate the same as all other printed matter. The price of books, paper and materials had fallen nearly 400 per cent. in ten years and it hardly seemed possible that sheet music could not be published as cheaply as any other printed matter. This, with so many calls for more music, led us to look into the subject. We found the price of sheet music ranging from 40 cents to one dollar a piece and no intention of lower prices.

From that day we have labored incessantly to bring out the very best sheet music at a price so low as to astonish every buyer, and at the same time give the very best in workmanship,

material and character. The public has appreciated this effort and nobly responded until we have been encouraged to present the long list of varied pieces which appear in our music offer in another column. COMFORT cannot fully tell how pleasant it is to receive the letters which delighted patrons have poured in showing their satisfaction over this music. We hope that every reader who has received benefit from this offer will send us a word of encouragement and praise; and, that each will remember to show some friend the music itself and our offer.

So rapidly has our method increased in popular favor that already there is a break of at least from 20 to 50 per cent. in the old monopoly prices in music. In department stores and hundreds of other places the brilliant example of COMFORT's success in selling the best first-class sheet music at popular prices, has led to a wild cutting of prices and while none of them attempt to reach the low charge made by COMFORT's musical offer, still none of them dare now to ask even the prices printed on their sheets. Such is the great revolution which has been brought about by the progressive spirit of one paper backed by the best and most modern machinery. The day of monopoly prices on sheet music has gone by and a gratified public may well thank COMFORT for the success of its enterprise.

ADELINA PATTI.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

Among all the living artists no prima donna has the popularity or the love of musical people as Adelina Patti, and a few words about her and her daily life cannot help being of great interest to COMFORT's readers. This is especially true as Madame Patti has recently attracted world-wide attention by her marriage to Baron Cederstrom, a young man of

twenty-eight, upon whom she has settled an annuity of \$15,000 as "pin money."

Madame Adelina Maria Clorinda Patti-Nicolini, which is giving her full name, was born in Madrid in the year 1843 and on attaining age had become so marked for her musical power that she was given a full operatic training under Maurice Strakosch. In the meantime she had come to America and made her debut in New York in 1859 in the opera *La Sonnambula* in which her success was so pronounced and instantaneous that she was immediately proclaimed one of the leading prima donnas of the age. It is safe to say that with the single exception of Jenny Lind, no prima donna who has ever visited America was received with the enthusiasm and popularity with which Patti was by the American public.

She was known then and has always been more or less called "the beautiful Spaniard," and the salaries which she obtained both in her first engagement and since have been such as to make both managers and professionals stand aghast, and have never been equaled by any other singer in this country. The most notable of her achievements was to obtain in 1870 from the late Czar, Alexander II., a medal and membership in the Russian Order of Merit, and an appointment as first singer in the Imperial Court. It is estimated that in her lifetime she has earned by her voice no less than \$5,000,000 in our money, and no public singer has ever begun to equal the large figures which her earnings have attained at certain times. In one tour, in the year 1888, made in Argentina and Brazil, it is said she cleared between \$300,000 and \$350,000, receiving for twenty-four nights running as salary alone \$8,000.

This great singer now lives in a castle in Wales called Craig-y-Nos and is noted the world over for the liberality and profuseness of her hospitality. It is said no person entertains more gracefully or with more real hospitality than she, and she is to all who know her a warm-

hearted, affectionate and modest woman, whose character is above reproach. As an entertainer she has made it a rule not to interfere with her guests, but to leave them at perfect liberty to do as each may please, while at the same time her mind is ever busy arranging and furnishing some novel kind of entertainment.

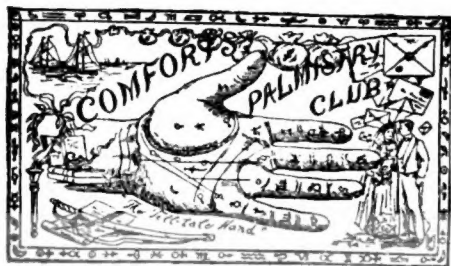
The closest friend and adviser of Patti is Miss Caroline Burkmeister. She has full charge of the entire castle and not an entertainment is given, a servant hired or any event undertaken without her decision. Madame Patti places full reliance upon her and when a question is referred invariably directs the questioner to Caroline.

This lady is the life and soul of the entire castle, and has the keeping of the most valuable articles in her entire possession. Patti herself could not tell a visitor where her most valuable gems were kept, and although certain ones, such as the diamond given her by the Prince of Wales on the occasion of her marriage to Signor Nicolini, are kept in her own room the remainder of the great lot which are valued at over half a million dollars are safely placed within the depths of burglar proof safes and hidden in stone rooms. These are only accessible to Caroline herself.

It is said that it is only when this attendant decides that it is for Patti's advantage to change her jewels that any of these are taken out, when the whole lot of them are thoroughly overhauled and many of them are sent to London to be reset or placed in some modern appendage, while the remainder are returned to their safe keeping; and this care of the jewels also extends over Madame Patti's gowns and even to the selection of the same.

But the actual selection and arrangement of the toilet itself is left to a Mexican maid who is attached to Patti's person. She is an invaluable servant and has always been noted for her exquisite taste, and no person could bring-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 12.)



CONDUCTED BY DIGITUS.

I HAVE a number of questions to answer this month. First let me say to B. Hunt and to Mrs. J. R. of New Hampshire that their readings were used in the June number which I presume they have discovered before this time.

A new member of the Palmistry Club sends a list of questions which I answer here. He asks to have them answered in a self-addressed envelope by private letter but that, as I have often stated, I never do. I am willing to answer all reasonable questions in this department but I cannot undertake to write private letters to the members of this club.

What does it denote when the first joint of the thumb is extremely large and short in an otherwise fine hand? If the first joint is extremely large it means a good deal of combativeness and perseverance; it also shows a strong will, great promptitude in action, a reliable and steady judgment and great self-confidence. You will be impulsive, decided and enthusiastic but you will lack somewhat in logic and will be inclined to be obstinate. If this phalanx is excessively broad it shows ungovernable passions and sometimes brutal tendencies. If the second phalanx is thin and narrow in the center it shows great tact but if thick it shows a lack of that quality. With this broad first phalanx square fingers will offset the tendency to obstinacy and unreasonableness and will at least greatly modify them. On the whole it is a good quality unless carried to very great excess.

Where is the color shown of those who take part in my life, on the lines? which are blonde, which brunette? Lines showing interferences from other people? Lines running from the mount of the moon will show blonde; lines running from the mount of Saturn show dark people.

Where are the children or increase lines or indications? This I have answered many times. They are the fine lines which run on the side of the hand under the little fingers back of the mount of Mercury. It is not possible to tell accurately by these lines the sex of the children although some palmists have gone so far as to say that the deeply indented ones are boys, the lighter ones girls. It seems to be generally accepted that the long ones indicate children who will live long and the short lines show short-lived children.

What do the wrinkles on the back of the second joint of the thumb denote? The wrinkles do not denote anything but if there is a well-defined star on the thumb it may indicate a misfortune coming from the other sex, an unhappy marriage or, if situated on the knuckle with a good development of the mount of Jupiter, it may mean a brilliant marriage. The ordinary wrinkles on the back of the hand do not enter into the reading of the palms.

What does a line from the mount of Venus to the base of the little finger denote, crossing fate, heart and tip of head line? If this line is connected with the marriage line so that the latter appears to be running down and across to the mount of Venus it indicates a divorce and if there is an island in this line it indicates a scandal connected with the divorce. If it is not connected with the marriage line and runs to the base of the little finger it means some strong influence that changes the whole career at the age indicated on the life and fate lines.

How may I be able to tell when certain events shown on the palm are to occur by the lines which foretell them? You should study the table indicating ages both on the fate line and life lines. Any event foreshown on these lines



AGGERO.

will occur at about the age indicated according to the table in the palmistry guide. It is not possible to tell to the exact month unless one is very expert but the time can be easily approximated. Several books larger than the little COMFORT GUIDE have been published and may be obtained at any first-class book store. Cheiro's book is to be had at Brentano's in New York City and Mr. Ed Heron Allen has published a very full treatise on palmistry which can be ordered through any good book store. We do not have any of these for sale. Another asks what it means to have the head line running far down into the mount of the moon and there crossed by a voyage line. It would mean a very romantic and melancholy temperament to begin with; a drooping head line always indicates that with casuistry and a vivid imagination. A voyage line if it is clear and uncrossed by other lines affecting that line might mean that a very important voyage was to be taken which must be guessed at by the position of this voyage line on the mount of Luna.

What does it mean to have the fate line rise from the center of the line of life, extend far into the head line and from there run into branches between Jupiter and Saturn? Starting from the line of life it indicates that the luck in life will arise from personal merit rather than from outside influences. It is always a good sign for the fate line to run up to the mount of Jupiter or onto it. It means a rich and fortunate marriage and is said to be an infallible sign. With a man it would mean that the subject was very ambitious and that he would realize his ambitions and meet with great success. It is in all cases an excellent sign bringing luck, distinction and wealth.

When the line of Apollo rises from the center of the wrist, goes straight through to the head line, then divides, one line stopping at the heart line under Saturn, the other going on through the mount of Apollo, what are the in-

dications? This would be a splendid line showing that the luck would begin early in life and follow the subject straight through life. It indicates distinction and riches. If this person goes on the stage or before the public as a singer or speaker he would become very noted, successful and wealthy. The line of Apollo could not possibly be better. The branch dividing and stopping at the heart line under Saturn, however, would mean that some affair of the heart would come at the age indicated by its departure from the fate line and that possibly its results might not be pleasant to all concerned. The fact, however, that the main line goes straight on through the mount of Apollo indicates that no serious trouble would come to the person whose hand is marked in this way.

H. C. G. asks to have a reading sent to him at once. This, as I have before stated, I do not do, but neither do I find his hands among my list.

Aggero sends two well-marked hands denoting an ambitious character and good disposition. She has an artistic temperament and is fond of music, books and pictures. Her health will be fairly good although she is nervous and will have some weaknesses attendant upon that sort of temperament. She will be quite successful especially in early life. Her health will remain good until she is at least fifty, although a sickness indicated at between the ages of fifty and sixty is marked by a square and that proves that she will have protection from it. She has good luck rising from her line of life at many points and very little poor luck attends her. There will be some obstacles between twenty-five and forty that will probably be in the nature of interferences from other people with her affairs. She will not be able to do all she would like to perhaps because of obstacles placed in her way by well meaning friends. Her fate line indicates great success. Beginning at the wrist and going straight upward in the right hand, it shows that she will have good luck in most things that she undertakes. As I said before, she will meet with some obstacles but she has perseverance and strength enough to overcome them and go right on. She will not live to a very great age, that is after sixty-five or seventy but she will accomplish much and have a happy life. There are two or three love affairs in youth but I don't think she will marry until about thirty. She will then make a happy marriage though I think she will outlive her husband. There will be, however, several engagements first. She is attractive to the opposite sex and will always have much attention. She should be careful not to marry a jealous man as her life would be made very unhappy. I see only two children in her hand. I think she will marry a dark man who will be very good to her. She will see but little trouble although her nervous temperament will cause her to exaggerate much that will befall her inevitably in this vale of woe. I don't see any signs of great wealth although she will probably be comfortable especially during the latter part of her life. If she were to go into any business whereby to earn her way I should advise her to take up music or the stage. I don't think she would be a success as a teacher but she might as a stenographer or in some office calling. She will make many friends all her life and but few enemies. The last of her life she will travel a good deal but not in early life and I don't think she will ever live very far away from home. She will be liable to brain troubles and I see one serious illness at about the age of thirty or if she escapes that at about fifty-five, which will probably incur some danger of inflammation or congestion of the brain. She needs to guard against anything of that sort. On the whole, hers is a fortunate hand and indicates a reasonably happy and comfortable life.

Digitus

A WOMAN IN KOKOMO

has discovered a positive cure for all female diseases and the piles. It never fails to cure the piles from any cause or in either sex, or any of the diseases peculiar to women, such as leucorrhoea, displacements, ulceration, granulation, etc. A box of this wonderful medicine will be mailed free to any sufferer who addresses MRS. C. B. MILLER, Box 106, Kokomo, Ind.

The debris left from coral made into jewelry is crushed fine and sold for tooth powder.

FOR
MEN
ONLY.

Free Trial Package of This New Discovery Mailed to Every Man Sending Name and Address—Quickly Restores Strength and Vigor.

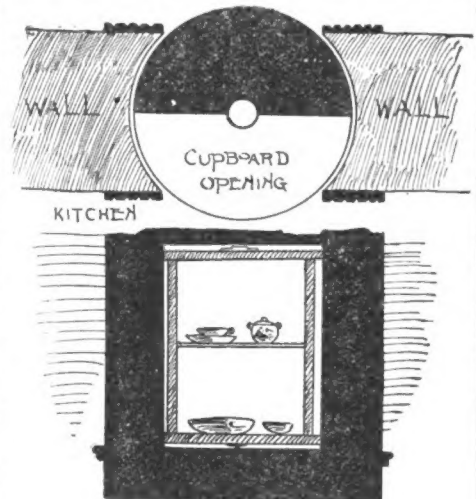
Free trial packages of a most remarkable remedy are being mailed to all who will write the State Medical Institute. They cured so many men who had battled for years against the mental and physical suffering of lost manhood that the Institute has decided to distribute free trial packages to all who write. It is a home treatment and all men who suffer with any form of sexual weakness resulting from youthful folly, premature loss of strength and memory, weak back, varicocele, or emaciation of parts can now cure themselves at home.

The remedy has a peculiarly grateful effect of warmth and seems to act direct to the desired location giving strength and development just where it is needed. It cures all the ills and troubles that come from years of misuse of the natural functions and has been an absolute success in all cases. A request to the State Medical Institute, 780 First National Bank Building, Ft. Wayne, Ind., stating that you desire one of their free trial packages will be complied with promptly. The Institute is desirous of reaching that great class of men who are unable to leave home to be treated and the free sample will enable them to see how easy it is to be cured of sexual weakness when the proper remedies are employed. The Institute makes no restrictions. Any man who writes will be sent a free sample, carefully sealed in a plain package so that its recipient need have no fear of embarrassment or publicity. Readers are requested to write without delay.

AN IDEA FROM MOROCCO.



HERE is a description of a household contrivance in far-away Africa which, for convenience and skillfulness of design is worthy of competition with any Yankee device for the saving of labor. In a Morocco hotel, whose stone walls are very thick, there is a long dining-room and a kitchen adjoining. Now, as the odors and sounds of the kitchen might fill the dining-room, should there be a connecting door between the two, this is omitted, and, to take its place, at least for the transference of dishes and food, there is a most ingenious device. This consists of a revolving cupboard or dumb waiter placed between the two rooms. The wall between them is about eighteen inches thick, and, by permitting the cupboard to project slightly into the room, a circle of two and a half or three feet high is secured. This is occupied by a revolving drum or cylinder four feet high and divided by two shelves. There is an opening down one side only. When this is towards the kitchen the closed side is presented to the dining-room, and as this is of



A REVOLVING CUPBOARD.

polished mahogany it has a handsome appearance. After it is filled with dishes in the kitchen a touch of the finger whirls the drum about, and the waiter in the dining-room has only to take them out and serve their contents.



BRAZIL exports black diamonds to South Africa. These diamonds are not used as jewelry, but are used underground in the mines. South Africa does not produce them, but could not well get along without them. The black diamond is the hardest substance known; the rough stones are split by machinery into cubes and then welded into mining drills for boring. Black diamonds weigh less than 100 carats. An attempt to make these stones artificially has proven a failure; the cost is greater than the market price of the Brazilian diamond.

Do You Want a \$1.00 Fountain Pen for only 17 Cents?

We have it for you and will send you one only, on receipt of the above amount in stamps. Only account of the Bankruptcy of a large concern are we able to offer you this great bargain. These Fountain Pens are in a fine aluminum hexagon case all filled ready for use, and if you are supplied with one, you are never at a loss when desiring to sign your name or write an order. It is not a toy but a practical article for every man and woman, and within the reach of every school boy and girl. Try one and you will want your friends to share your pleasure with you. They are invaluable to School Teachers, Lumbermen, Boys who drive a delivery team, and Telegraph Messenger Boys. Send 17 cents, and we mail you one securely wrapped and guarantee satisfaction, and also give you a three months' subscription to COMFORT with each Pen. Send to-day to Pen Department, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

HAIR LIKE THIS



WE WILL FORWARD ---FREE--- To any address, full information how to grow hair upon the balding head, stop hair falling, cure weak eyebrows and eyelashes, scanty parting, scurf, dandruff, itching scalp, and restore gray and faded hair to its natural color. Enclose 2 cent stamp to prepay postage. Address P. Lorrimer & Co., 334 N. Howard St., Baltimore, Md.

Sent Free to Everybody!

The COMFORT HAMMOCK.

As a Reward for a little friendly service.

BOYS AND GIRLS:

Here's a happy hint for Summer, And verily it is a "hummer."



We have 17,300 strong, perfect, Oriental, hand-tied, colored Hammocks, which for the next sixty days we shall place on the Free List, upon the conditions specified below. This will enable every one who is willing to render us a little service, to secure one absolutely free. These Hammocks are over 10 feet long, every one is tested to carry 300 lb. dead weight, is supplied with strong, white metal rings at the ends, and a strong recline in one of the health giving articles in some cool nook after the day's work is done, or on a Sunday afternoon, is to repose in the lap of luxury. Now to every one who will get up a club of 4 subscribers for this paper at the special trial price, 25 cents per year each in advance, we will send one of these Hammocks FREE, we paying all express and mailing charges. By showing a copy of this great paper to your neighbors, friends and acquaintances, you can easily get up a club in one evening; for with its many improvements and new original copyrighted departments, now needs only to be seen to be appreciated. To those who do not care to go to the trouble of getting a club we will send our paper for one year, together with one of these Hammocks (all express and mailing charges paid by us) upon receipt of 89 cts. Address, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

It rests with you whether you continue the nerve-killing tobacco habit. NO-TO-BAC removes the desire for tobacco, with-out nervous distress, expels nicotine, purifies the blood, restores lost manhood. 1,000 stores makes you strong in health, nerve and pocket. NO-TO-BAC from book. your own druggist, who will furnish for you. Take it with a will, patiently, persistently. One box, \$1. usually cures; 3 boxes, \$2.50, guaranteed to cure, or we refund money. Sterling Remedy Co., Chicago, Montreal, New York.

5000 BICYCLES Overstock. Must be closed out. Standard '99 Models guaranteed, \$10 to \$25. '98 & '97 models \$8 to \$15. Shopworn and second hand wheels, good machines, \$3 to \$10. Great Factory Clearing Sale. We ship anywhere, to any one, on approval and trial without a cent in advance. EARN A BICYCLE by helping us advertise our superb wheels. Easy work and sure reward on our new plan. We will give one Rider Agent in each town FREE USE of Sample Wheel to introduce them. Write at Once for Our Special Offer. B. O. MEAD CYCLE CO., Chicago, Ill.

PROFITABLE HOME WORK. Increase your income. Ladies earn from \$10.00 to \$15.00; Boys and Girls \$8.00 to \$10.00 weekly at home. We employ thousands, but want you to co-operate with us. Write to-day. Do not send stamp; we furnish particulars free. PARIAN MANUFACTURING CO., 20 Desbrosses St., New York.

LEARN A PROFESSION in 10 days that will net you \$25 a day the rest of your life. Ladies or gentlemen. Address with stamp. PROF. S. A. WELTMER, Nevada, Mo.

CHILD LOST For 18 years. Stolen from the Cradle. She was told who and where her parents lived by ZEMINDAR, The Great Hindu Seer, who foretells correctly all Private Affairs, Health and Business. Send stamp for particulars. Box 6, 245, Saratoga, New York.

A BIG OFFER 50c. MADE IN A MINUTE! If you have a P.O., or some public place, the two show bills that we send, we will give you a 50c. cert., and send it in advance with samples and bills. This will trouble you about one minute, and then if you want to work on salary at \$5.00 or \$10.00 per month, let us know. We pay in advance. GIANT OXIE CO., 125 Willow St., Augusta, Me.

SEND US ONE DOLLAR and this ad. and we will send you this \$25.00 COOK STOVE, by freight C.O.D., subject to examination. Examine it at your freight depot and if found perfectly satisfactory and the greatest stove bargain you ever saw or heard of, pay the freight agent our SPECIAL PRICE, \$13.00 less the \$1.00 sent with order, or \$12.00 and freight charges. This stove is size No. 8, oven is 16x18x11, top is 12x23; made from best pig iron, extra large flues, heavy covers, heavy linings and grates, large oven shelf, heavy tin-lined oven door, handsome nickel-plated ornate decorations and trimmings, extra large deep genuine Standish porcelain lined reservoir, handsome large ornate base. Best coal burner made, and we furnish FREE an extra wood grate, making it a perfect wood burner. WE ISSUE A BONDING GUARANTEE with every stove and guarantee safe delivery to your railroad station. Your local dealer would charge you \$25.00 for such a stove; the freight is only about \$1.00 for each 500 miles, so we save you at least \$10. Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc), CHICAGO, (Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable—Editor.)



WRITE FOR OUR BIG FREE STOVE CATALOGUE

A Gold-Lined Silver Dish FREE!

To introduce our new line of Quadruple Plated Silverware we will for 30 days send either one of these beautiful gold lined Quadruple Plated Silver dishes FREE to any one sending a club of two yearly subscribers to SUNSHINE at 25c each, or send both dishes, all charges paid, for a club of three at 30c each. These goods are made up in the latest 1899 style, are guaranteed to wear well, as they are the best quality silverware. The lowest store price of either article is not less than \$1.00 or \$1.50, and as these beautiful articles can be used for all sorts of tables, they make invaluable household necessities as well as beautiful ornaments. We will for a short time send either style dish free to all who send 30c for a year's subscription or will send both dishes, all charges paid, if you remit 60c. for a two years' subscription to SUNSHINE, the great home monthly. Don't delay but send at once. We can quote you wholesale rates on our new Premium goods that will get you rich. Address, SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.





EDITOR'S NOTE. The following rules govern the publication of matter in this department.

Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to *Comfort*, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

\$10 CASH PRIZES \$10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st.	For the best original letter	\$3.00
2nd.	" " second best original letter	2.50
3rd.	" " third " "	2.00
4th.	" " fourth " "	1.50
5th.	" " fifth " "	1.00

Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must comply with all the above rules, and in addition must bring at least one new cousin into the *COMFORT* circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this prize offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of *COMFORT*, Augusta, Maine.

CASH PRIZE WINNERS.

William Isaacson,	\$3.00
Will W. Nelson,	2.50
Maud B. Rodgers,	2.00
M. Bowen,	1.50
Gertrude Crockett,	1.00

DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

The weeks and months roll around, fast or slowly according to the joys or sorrows, cares and perplexities, or pleasures and gayeties of each one of us, and once more it is August. Not, as last year, filled with the horrors and anxieties of war. Our dear ones are not, as then, huddled in fever-stricken camps under a burning sun, with insufficient and tainted food, or performing guard duty under the same hard conditions, but are most of them once more quietly at home. Only in far away Manila are our soldiers, at the time this is written, still on active duty, and a letter from one of our boys there, even though it be six months old, will, I am sure, be most welcome to the cousins. Our soldier cousin writes as follows:

"I have just finished reading the letters from the cousins in the November number of *COMFORT* and thinking that it may interest them I will write a short sketch of ninety-three days spent on board a United States Transport.

Co. C. 51st Iowa Inf., U.S.V.



the time on shore, and those four days in one of the finest cities in the world were enjoyed by all. The houses were overgrown with vines and shaded with tropical trees, and oranges, bananas, coconuts, etc., were growing everywhere.

"After leaving Honolulu we sailed west. The days were hot but the deck was covered with awnings and we were allowed to wear as little clothing as possible, and to take a cool shower bath twice a day, so we did not suffer from the heat.

"Our food was sufficient for us because we got no exercise, but it lacked in variety and quality and was seldom properly cooked. It was all cooked at the galley and a detail from each company got the allowance for their company in pans, and then the men lined up and each one was given his share and might eat it wherever he chose on the deck. It was all right when the sea was still, but when it was rough more food was scattered on the deck than was eaten. Those scenes will furnish the foundation for many a soldier's story when we get home. The days were all alike to us: one company detailed for guard duty and one for fatigue duty (to clean the deck), and a daily concert by the band was our routine. We arrived in Manila Bay December 7, and packed our clothes expecting to land, but were disappointed. Most of us went ashore on the 11th and the 20th, so we saw quite a good bit of Manila. We did not like it very well.

"On the 24th we got mail and Christmas presents from home. The 28th we sailed for Iloilo in company with two other transports and two gun boats. We anchored in the channel about a mile from the city. It was nice and cool there on account of the winds, and it rained every night. We stayed there until the 29th of January, expecting every day to get orders to land and capture the city which was held by natives.

"On the 29th we started back for Manila and dropped anchor about a mile from Cavite on January 31st. We have unloaded nearly all our supplies and expect to go ashore to stay to-morrow. We all are glad to get on shore once more after living for three months on the water. Strange to say, we have no serious sickness on board, and have not had one death. Anchored near us are five of Admiral Dewey's fleet, and an English gun boat and a few freight vessels. Near shore I can see the tops of three sunken Spanish gun boats. To the north, eight miles across the bay, lies Manila. Our regiment received twenty-three sacks of mail the day we arrived here.

"I have read *COMFORT* for nearly eight years and always found it well worth reading."

WM. ISAACSON, Co. C. 51st Iowa Vol.

Even were there no other good accomplished by our recent war with Spain we can rejoice that it has finished the process of reuniting the bonds so rudely severed in 1861, and that now there is no longer any "North" and "South," but from Puget

Sound to Florida's southernmost cape, and from Cape Cod to Cape Mendocino we are a united nation, one and indivisible. To all the cousins, therefore, the following letter will be most welcome.

"There lingers around the city of Montgomery, the capital of Alabama, memories which will ever remain sacred to all Southerners; for it was there the first and last chapters of the Southern Confederacy were engraved on the hearts of gifted daughters and noble sons.

"On a high eminence, at the eastern terminus of Dexter Avenue, overlooking one of the most beautiful cities in the south, is situated an old-fashioned, but stately edifice where the laws of the State of Alabama are enacted to-day. Within the walls of this same old-fashioned, peaceful-looking structure, more than a quarter of a century ago, were enacted scenes, the results of which the pages of the nation's history have not recorded on them an equal.

"On the 4th day of February, 1862, delegates from seven southern states assembled within these walls and proceeded to organize the government of the Confederate States of America. A constitution was adopted and Jefferson Davis, of Mississippi, was chosen president and Alexander H. Stephens of Georgia, vice-president, and the seat of that government was temporarily located within the walls of the present State Capitol. Standing on the west porch of the capitol building with his face turned towards his native state, Jefferson Davis took the solemn oath of office as President of the Confederate States of America. The spot where he stood on that memorable occasion is to-day marked by a large brass star and is viewed by tourists from all climes.

"On the capitol grounds, less than a hundred yards from where Jefferson Davis stood when he took the oath of office, and just outside of the chamber where the first Confederate Congress was held, stands the representative of the last chapter of the Confederacy in the shape of a handsome monument whose summit towers up to the height of nearly one hundred feet.



ALABAMA STATE HOUSE AND CONFEDERATE MONUMENT.

"This monument is one of the most magnificent structures of the kind in the country and its erection was due to the untiring efforts of the ladies of Alabama. Its base is thirty-four feet square and consists of four blocks of stone, making as many steps. These steps lead up to four pedestals, on each of which stands a statue; an infantryman, an artilleryman, a cavalryman and a sailor. From this base rises a seventy foot circular shaft five feet in diameter. A circular base around the shaft represents marching troops. A Corinthian cap surmounts the whole, and upon this is a ten foot bronze statue representing a female figure typifying patriotism and the southern women. This figure holds in one hand a broken flag, and with the other tenders to her sons a sword. The corner stone of the monument was laid by Jefferson Davis in 1886 and the monument was dedicated and formally presented to the State by the ladies of the Alabama Memorial Association on the eighth day of December, 1898.

"Thus the last chapter in the history of the Southern Confederacy was completed near the same spot where, nearly thirty-seven years before, the infant was born."

WILL W. NELSON, New Decatur, Ala.

To Naomi Kay, of De Graff, Ohio: Aunt Minerva cannot use stories of any kind.

Now for a peep at one of the beautiful bits of California scenery.

"Few of the very great things which annually visit that most beautiful of all California spots, the Hotel Del Monte at the old city of Monterey, ever have seen or ever knew of the charming artificial lake situated among the velvet, rolling hills back of the old Spanish Capital. The lake was built some few years ago for the purpose of storing the abundance of water that flows through these undulating regions during the rainy season, and if there is ever a shortage of water during the long California summer the lake is resorted to for the use of the hotel.

"This alluring sheet of water lies in a low valley between softly sloping hills, covered with majestic pines and oaks, and where great ferns and tall wild flowers find a true home in the moist, leafy world. The tops of the trees, unusually green here beneath the southern blue sky, have the appearance of rich green velvet, so thick and glossy are their masses of needles, while the wild ivy and clematis twine about the tree trunks, festoon themselves among the spreading branches and during the early spring months fill the soft air with sweetest fragrance. Among the trees occasional deer appear but at the faintest foreign sound spring in quick, light bounds through the high masses of ferns and low shrubbery and vanish within the depth of green.

"In the early morning or at the close of day the shadows of these bosky woods are reflected far across the smooth surface of the lake and add to its wild, alluring beauty. The lake then has the appearance of a glistening mirror painted by an artist capable of reproducing the most perfect of forest scenes. To a stranger the utter silence of this region is hard to be understood; so still is it that a twig snapped by a visitor sounds far across the wooded slopes and echoes in the occasional clearings. A fire kindled here of the fallen pines burns too with no sound other than that made by the flames for this wood neither snaps nor crackles.

"There is no road through the wooded uplands leading to this lake, just the narrow pathway winding through the trees and which is so little used that grass grows greenly over it. But the road which takes one to the starting of this pathway is the famous seventeen mile drive which leads on in the opposite direction from the lake path, carries one into a throng of fashionable people, glittering equipages and bewildering saddle horses; for here the social world which crowds upon the Del Monte takes its daily outing close upon the borders of the stilly woods with their tranquil and almost unvisited lake."

MAUD B. RODGERS, Menlo Park, California.

A. J. Nightingale, of Elyria, Kansas, must read the directions at the head of this department for the answer to his question.

Mrs. E. Snyder, of Slaght's, Colorado, will be perfectly correct if she sends subscriptions as she suggests.

The following letter seems particularly appropriate to this hot and dusty month.

"Some years ago I had the pleasure as well as the misfortune of traveling over southwestern Kansas. I say misfortune, because the time of which I write was during the most severe drought ever known to the settlers of that arid region. Crops of every kind were a total failure, and by mid-summer the vast prairies were sere and brown.

"One day in the latter part of July my course led me over a long stretch of desolate country, made all the more desolate, if possible, by an occasional claim 'soddy' from which all signs of life and hope had fled. At last, becoming tired of my lonely journey, and the hot southwest wind which had been beating upon my back for hours, I touched my horse lightly with the whip.

"It was now past four o'clock, and I was begin-

ning to be a little concerned about a stopping place for the night. Suddenly my attention was caught by a strange and beautiful sight. Off a little to the left, extending in an easterly direction and reaching far into the dim distance lay a valley in which all vegetation appeared to be green and growing. I rode on and on, scarcely believing my eyes, so marvelous seemed such a landscape in the midst of all this devastation. At length I found myself at the head of the valley—a veritable paradise nestled amid scorched and treeless plains, which did not vanish at my approach, as I half feared it would. Soon after descending the gentle slope that led into the valley the welcome sound of falling water caused me to pause and look around. A few yards south of the road and in the inviting shadow of a clump of locust trees, I spied a flowing well and hastened to the cool retreat. The water poured from an iron pipe into a small reservoir, from whence it ran rippling away beneath a long row of beautiful trees by the road side. The water was as pure and refreshing as it looked, and my horse drank his fill and then reluctantly left the tender grass that grew along the little stream.

"My way from the well was through pleasant lanes on either side of which were rich fields and green meadows, also beautiful homes with orchards and vines clustered about them. Here and there were bits of woodland interspersed with miniature lakes. Not far from one of these lakes, at a pretty cottage, I stopped and was met with hospitality of the true Southern type. I spent the next day in Artesian Valley and found the inhabitants generally as delightful as their abiding place. This valley is situated in the northeastern part of Meade Co., Kansas. It contains a score or more fine, fertile farms and is chiefly watered by artesian wells, from which it takes its name."

H. BOWEN, Arkansas City, Kansas.

The next letter contains another interesting bit of Cuban War history which I am sure my readers will welcome.

"Montgomery County in southwestern Iowa, received its name in honor of General Richard Montgomery of Revolutionary fame, who fell in the assault on Quebec, December 31, 1775. Red Oak is its county seat. Red Oak got its name from the fact that a part of the town plat was at one time covered with a growth of the red oak. This city is noted for its many beautiful and costly residences. Its moral atmosphere is of the best, no saloon having existed in its borders, or even in its county for years. Red Oak is a picturesque place as it nestles on the hillside and on the bottom of the Nishnabotna river. It is said the Indians named it Nishnabotna, meaning it was so large a stream it had to be crossed in a canoe.

"Red Oak was the birthplace and the home of the loved Lieut. Darwin Merritt, who lost his life on the ill-fated Maine, and whose body has never been recovered from its watery grave in Havana Harbor. Had it not been for his kind disposition he might have saved himself, but he stopped to lend a helping hand to a fellow soldier, thereby saving him but losing his own life. Red Oak truly mourned his death and many a soldier went forth to avenge it. Among the rest two of Darwin's brothers, who are now at Manila. Lieut. Merritt's mother passed to the other shore many years ago, but his father, the Rev. W. W. Merritt, still lives at Red Oak. Lieut. Merritt was educated at the United States Naval School, where he graduated with high honors. He was loved and respected by all and to be his friend was indeed an honor."

ISAACOR CLARK, Elliot, Iowa.

Oh, dear, dear! Why will my nephews and nieces persist in sending me articles which I cannot use! I hate to refuse them, you know I do, but I cannot use poems or stories or compiled articles, and here this month are two stories, three poems, and two compiled articles, all of which I must throw in the waste basket. Now if these same people would only send me a description and a picture of the old French Market in New Orleans (if they have been there) or of the work of a cotton or wool mill, or of the building or launching of a ship which they have witnessed, or of the making of a coffee pot, even, if they have some knowledge of the process, I would be so glad to get them.

This next letter, for instance, is just what I want, for this cousin has been in Plymouth, and knows of what she writes.

"DEAR AUNT MINERVA:

"Some time since one of the cousins wrote you a letter about Plymouth. While many things of interest were described in that letter, many others were omitted, and I would like to have the cousins who live at too great a distance to visit this lovely town of such great historic interest to every American, know of some of the other points of interest.

"In addition to being situated on a large bay of the ocean, it has fresh water facilities, having no less than three hundred and sixty-two ponds, some large enough to be called lakes. Pilgrim Hall



PILGRIMS' MONUMENT, PLYMOUTH, MASS.

is dedicated to the Pilgrims and has a fine collection of antiques in the shape of old furniture, oil paintings, shoes worn by Governor Bradford when a child, and a carved armchair of his. The Pilgrim Monument is one of the handsomest monuments in America. It stands upon an eminence in Monument Park, a tract of nine acres of land. It was presented by Oliver Ames, of Easton, Mass., and cost \$30,000. The pedestal has four wings on which are figures representing Morality, Law, Freedom and Education, and above these is the statue of Faith, thirty-six feet in height, or six times life size. This is the greatest granite figure in the world. The whole height of the monument is eighty-one feet. It was completed and dedicated in 1889, and commemorates the Pilgrims and bears the following inscription: 'National monument to the forefathers, erected by a grateful people in remembrance of their labors, sacrifices and sufferings for the cause of civil and religious liberty.'

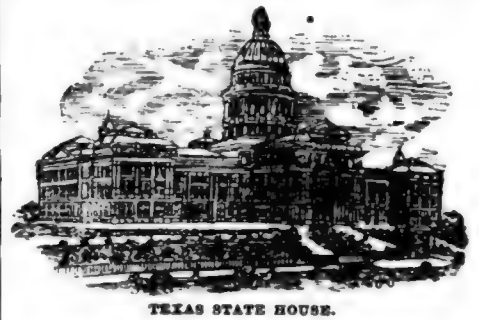
GERTRUDE CROCKETT, Plymouth, Mass.

Our next letter was written by a page in the Texas Legislature, so we may be sure that he knows whereof he speaks when his subject is the Texas State House. He says:

"As I am a page in the twenty-sixth Legislature of Texas and a reader of *COMFORT* I take the liberty of sending you the following description of our beautiful State House.

"The Texas State House is the largest Capitol in the United States with the exception of the National Capitol in Washington, D. C. It is built of stone and granite, its exterior walls being of red granite. In shape it is a Greek cross, having a rotunda and dome at the intersection of the arms of the cross. It measures five hundred and sixty-five feet in length by two hundred and eighty-seven in width. Its height to the apex of the dome is three hundred and thirteen feet, being six feet higher than the dome of the National Capitol. It cost the State three million acres of land and \$650,000.

"The massive building is heated by steam and lighted by electricity, for the production of which it has a special plant, owned and operated by the State. Its eight hundred lights are very artistically arranged, some in the form of stars—emblem of



TEXAS STATE HOUSE.

the State—and others form the word Texas. Beautiful paintings adorn the interior walls of the building, and fountains of water supplied by an artesian well are scattered here and there in convenient spots.

"The present Legislative body is composed of young men, seventy-five per cent. of whom are under thirty-three years of age."

ALBERT C. ADAMS, Austin, Texas.

Thanks to Miss Winnie Mullen and Miss Madeline Miller of New Orleans, La.; Archie E. McKinley of Borden, Indiana; J. A. Walker of York, Nebraska; Marie Pearl Luckett of Dresden, Mo., for letters and articles received.

Now we must end our session, and when we meet again in September vacations will be over and the serious business of life will again demand our attention. Till then farewell.

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CONDUCTED BY AUNT SARAH.



THE STOCKING OF THE PRESERVE CLOSET IS THE SPECIAL WORK OF THE PRUDENT HOUSEWIFE, AT THIS SEASON, AND THIS ISN'T SUCH A TASK AS IT SOUNDS, AS THE BERRIES COME IN TURN, SO THAT USUALLY ONE MAY DO HER STRAWBERRIES, THEN HER RASPBERRIES, THEN HER CURRANTS AND OTHER BERRIES AND BY THIS TIME IT IS THE SEASON FOR PLUMS, PEACHES, PARS AND JELLIES. THEN COME THE PICKLES. Really, nature has made it very easy for us, in stringing things along and so allowing us to get one thing well out of the way before entering upon the next.

Perhaps it would be as well to give a good, reliable recipe for preserving these various fruits—even though we have given some of the recipes before in these columns—for new readers must be thought of, also the carelessness of old ones, who forget to save the recipes from back numbers.

STRAWBERRY PRESERVES.

Pick over, wash, drain and hull strawberries; then weigh. Fill jars with berries. Make a syrup by boiling three-fourths the weight of the berries in sugar, allowing a cup of water to each pound of sugar. As soon as syrup reaches boiling point, skim, and add it to the berries in the jars, so that the jars overflow; let stand fifteen minutes when fruit will have shrunk, and more must be added to fill the jars. Screw on covers, put in a kettle of cold water, heat to the boiling point and keep just below boiling one hour.

RASPBERRY PRESERVES.

Raspberries may be preserved in the same way as strawberries—or, if a thin juice instead



GIVING POINTS TO A FRIEND.

of a syrup is desired, simply fill the jars with alternate layers of berries and sugar—let stand in cold water on the stove until water has reached boiling point; then fill jars with boiling water (for the fruit has shrunk and the sugar melted) and screw on tops. The next day have some one who is strong go over all the jars and screw tops on as securely as possible.

SPICED CURRANTS.

Pick over seven pounds currants, wash, drain and remove stems. Put in a preserving kettle, add five pounds brown sugar and one pint vinegar. Into a muslin bag, loosely, allowing plenty of room, put three tablespoons cinnamon and the same amount of ground cloves. Heat to the boiling point and then let cook slowly an hour and a half. Put up in preserving jars.

SWEET PICKLED PEACHES.

Boil two pounds brown sugar, one pint vinegar and one ounce stick cinnamon twenty minutes. Dip one-half peck peaches, individually, into hot water and rub off the fur with a towel. Stick each peach with four cloves. Put into the syrup and boil until soft, using one-half the peaches at a time.

Pears may be pickled in the same way as above.

To preserve Damson plums, follow recipe given for strawberries, for the syrup. Add the plums, which have previously been wiped and each plum pricked three or four times with a large needle. Cook until soft. It is well to use two kettles, and to divide the syrup and

plums and so not only accelerate the work, but also keep the plums in good shape by not crowding them into one kettle.

CANNED HUCKLEBERRIES.

Pick over and wash the berries and then put in a preserving kettle with a small quantity of water. Cook until berries are soft, and then put into jars. No sugar is required, but a sprinkling of salt is an addition.

TUTTI FRUITI.

Put one pint of brandy in a stone jar and add the various fruits as they come along; to each quart of fruit add the same quantity of sugar, and stir the mixture each morning until all the fruit has been added. Raspberries, strawberries, peaches, cherries and pineapples are the best to use. This mixture is supposed to be used for punch—being added to an ordinary lemonade—when it gives the exquisite flavor of all these fruits combined.

GRAPE WINE.

To each gallon of grapes, allow one gallon of water; bruise the grapes in the water and let them stand for a week without stirring, then draw off and strain. To each gallon of liquid add three pounds of sugar and pour all into a cask; leave cask open until wine has done hissing—then seal up.

ELDERBLOW WINE.

Use only the blows for this, and there should be a quart measure full, packed down solid. Into a five gallon crock put nine pounds of granulated sugar, and pour over it three gallons boiling water. Add the blows, and when cool add one yeast cake which has previously been dissolved in a little lukewarm water. Cover the crock and each day for a week stir the mixture. At the end of that time, strain, add three pounds of raisins which have been washed and snipped with scissors and then put crock in the cellar to stand for six weeks—being stirred once a week, meanwhile. At the end of the six weeks, strain again, add one pint best whiskey and bottle—putting one raisin into each bottle.

CHILI SAUCE.

Peel twelve medium sized ripe tomatoes and slice. Put in a preserving kettle with one pepper finely chopped, one onion ditto, two cups vinegar, three tablespoons sugar, one tablespoon salt, two teaspoons clove, the same of cinnamon, allspice and grated nutmeg. Heat gradually to boiling point and cook slowly for two and one-half hours.

UNRIPE CUCUMBER PICKLES.

Wipe four quarts small cucumbers. Put in a stone jar and add one cup salt dissolved in two quarts boiling water and let stand three days. Drain cucumbers from brine, heat brine to boiling point, pour over cucumbers and again let stand three days; repeat. Drain, wipe cucumbers, and pour over one gallon boiling water in which one tablespoon alum has been dissolved. Let stand six hours, then drain from alum water. Cook cucumbers ten minutes, a few at a time, in one-fourth the following mixture heated to the boiling point and boiled ten minutes: one gallon vinegar, four red peppers, two sticks cinnamon, two tablespoons allspice berries and two tablespoons cloves. Strain remaining liquor over pickles which have been put in a stone jar.

RIPE CUCUMBER PICKLES.

Cut cucumbers in halves lengthwise, and then into smaller pieces if the cucumbers are of large size. Cover with alum water, allowing two teaspoons powdered alum to each quart of water. Heat gradually to boiling point, then let stand on back of range two hours. Remove from alum water and chill in ice water. Make a syrup by boiling five minutes two pounds of sugar, one pint vinegar and two tablespoons each of whole cloves and stick cinnamon tied in a piece of muslin. Add cucumbers and cook ten minutes. Remove cucumbers to a stone jar and pour over syrup. Scald syrup three successive mornings and return to cucumbers.

The odors of plants exist in different parts of them—sometimes in the wood, as in the cedar and sandal wood; sometimes in the leaves as in patchouly and thyme; and in the seeds as in caraway; in the roots as in orris, and in the bark, as in cinnamon. The orange has three odors—the flowers, the leaves and the rind.

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Prof. W. H. PEEKE, F. D., 4 Cedar St., N. Y.



OR nearly nineteen years a cat has been owned by a Mr. Majors of Chicago, and during that time the amount expended upon him aggregates over \$2000. His master thinks he is the wisest and best cat in town, and he has spared no expense in giving "Tom Majors" everything he wanted. He is very fond of turkey, and has had it at all seasons, no matter how expensive it is.



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The word news is said to have been derived from the initial letters of the cardinal points of the compass: North, East, West, South.



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Prof. Weltmer, of Nevada, Mo., is doing more for the afflicted than any man known to history. He is the direct cause for placing Magnetic Healing on a scientific basis, it is conceded that his physiological explanations are the only logical ones, scientists therefore term his method Weltmerism. His absent treatment, which dispels all disease at a distance just as readily as those brought to Nevada, has effected such marvelous cures that some claim it to be supernatural, others that there must be a divine force existing in the Professor, different from others. From the mere fact that Prof. Weltmer teaches his wonderful art to others, and his students are just as efficient as himself, disproves this belief. Hon. Press Irons, Mayor of Nevada, was afflicted with kidney and bladder troubles for ten years and could find no relief in the usual remedies. In one week he was completely restored by Prof. Weltmer. Mrs. Jennie L. Litch, Lakeview, Mo., was for two years afflicted with ulceration of the womb, heart and stomach troubles. In less than 30 days she was cured by the Absent Method. Mrs. M. M. Walker, Poca, W. Va., suffered severely with female trouble and eczema, and was entirely restored by Prof. Weltmer in a month without ever seeing her. In like manner thousands have been restored. Lost vitality and kindred ailments positively cured. By writing Prof. S. A. Weltmer, Nevada, Mo., you will receive free the Magnetic Journal, a 40-page illustrated magazine, and a long list of the most remarkable cures ever performed.

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Yours sincerely, Geo. F. Lawton, Olympia, Wash., Feb. 9th, 1898.

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TALKS WITH GIRLS.

CONDUCTED BY
COUSIN MARION.

Here is a warm greeting to you all, my dears, but I feel sure that you would rather I treated you coldly, at least, until after the summer sun has set. I hope you have come comfortably through half of the summer and that August and its "dog days" won't have any bad effect upon you. At first I was going off for a vacation, but I think I would prefer to stay and talk to my cousins, so here I am talking as usual.

The first in the list is from Anxious Inquirer of Des Moines, Ia., who has been reading Mrs. Julia McNair's book on the home and wants something more recent. Evidently this cousin is contemplating matrimony, and if she will write to the publishers of the book they will no doubt tell her where she may learn all about how to make her nest the prettiest.

Triplets, North Loup, Neb.—A man should not put his arm around a girl until or unless he is engaged to her. I think I have said this a thousand times.

M. M. K. Steel, Ohio.—Cousin Marion's address is care of COMFORT, Augusta, Me., and she does not answer letters personally unless there are imperative reasons why she should.

Mabel, Indianapolis, Ia., who is fifteen years old asks me several questions about beaus and she spells her own name, Mable. Dear, dear, it isn't beaus you need so much as a spelling book.

Anet, Portland, Ore.—It isn't the young man's fault that his parentage is clouded, and if you love him, marry him. That is the sentimental side of your question. On the practical, every day, living side, it is hardly fair to the children who may come of such a marriage. (2) It will be quite right to send the excursion ticket to your fourth cousin. (3) Astrologers don't know any more about your future than you do. (4) A girl of sixteen or seventeen may wear her hair down if she is small and girlish looking.

Josephine, Natchitoches, La.—A good rule in the marriage question is: When in doubt, don't. Wait for the one you love if he wants you to.

Bashful Fifteen, Dorchester, Ia.—There is no cure for bashfulness except time and a constant effort to think about something else except yourself. (2) Don't use glycerine or anything else on your eyes until you have asked your druggist or physician about it. (3) Proper care in eating and drinking will reduce and may remove redness of the nose. However, it is a disease in some cases, and requires the direction of a physician. Consult one.

Geraldine, Little Sandusky, Ohio.—It is courteous for both the lady and gentleman to thank each other in a friendly way for ordinary social attentions.

Carmen, Trenton, N. J.—The young man, who comes to see you once in several weeks, says he is going to marry you and goes to see other girls, is so very thin a fraud that a girl of ordinary judgment ought to see through him at once. Drop him. The other young man who has been calling for a year and says nothing about love or marriage isn't thinking about you in that connection, and you should not think of him so. If he wants you he will make signs enough.

Blue Bell, Melrose, Minn.—A girl of seventeen may have as a friend a man of twenty-five and accept courtesies from him and she may give him flowers from her garden, but why should there be any kissing? It depends upon your acquaintance and relations to each other whether or not you should be Mr. and Miss to each other.

Daisy Belle, Lakewood, N. J.—Girls of fifteen should think about something more necessary to their future usefulness as women than beaus.

Miss D., Toronto, Can.—My dear, how can I tell you what the young man thinks of you if he doesn't tell you himself? Ask him. (2) It is the custom for young women who meet men in a business way to speak to them outside of their business places when the acquaintance has continued for sometime. Do not presume however, upon an office acquaintance to speak to a man outside, until you are sure it will be agreeable. Some men are very silly.

Dell, Rosewell, N. M.—The young man should simply ask the lady if he can accompany her home from church. That's all there is to be said. (2) A note asking the same favor, to or from, should be written as if the question were being asked. It is too simple to give a set form for.

Violet, Glasgow, Mo.—Young people wear each other's rings and I suppose there is no harm in it. It is a matter of taste. (2) Let the man take his own hat in church. (3) Four leaf clover is good luck. Where have you been that you hadn't learned this before? (4) Two young men may call on a girl in the afternoon. The more, the merrier. (5) No.

Lily Dale, Dayton, Ohio.—The flesh on the body can not be reduced leaving the face plump.

Idle Girl, Evert, Texas.—The man is indifferent and does not care a rap of his finger for you, and if you are sensible you will forget him. You ought to know that he is fooling you.

A. W., New Hartford, Ia.—If you do not care to marry it is very well not to have a "steady fellow." Otherwise you had better settle down to one, or permit him to settle down to you.

Callie, Malvern, Ark.—Don't run away and get married in the Court House by a Justice of the Peace. Get married at home by the preacher.

Betta, Guthrie, Oklahoma.—Wait five years for the young man who "blushes and smiles so sweet" and by that time you will be old enough to know what to do, and possibly how much you are loving quite a different fellow.

Purple Violet, Mayfield, Cal.—It is quite right for you to wear a corset and if you select the proper shape it will improve your figure and remove the annoyance you mention.

Grover, Klondike, Ia.—Early engagements are not advisable. A woman should not marry before she is twenty-five, and a man should be at least thirty. (2) Do not write to the young man and forget him.

Penelopia Folsom is an Indian cousin fourteen years old, living in the Indian Territory who wants some of the cousins to write to her, but I do not think it advisable that the cousins have their real names published as there is danger in it.

White Lily, Mendon, Kans.—Having ceased to care for the young man and having a good reason, tell him so and cut short further associations. (2) It isn't love at all that prompts a man to act as

you say. (3) Some men quit drinking when they promise to, and some do not. You run a great risk in marrying a man who drinks.

Violet, New York City.—The man should write first unless the lady writes to give him her address as by previous arrangement. (2) People are introduced to each other in public conveyances, even in New York, but it is not very elegant.

Kate, Stephensville, Miss.—Don't marry any one of the five. Take somebody you love.

Sorrow, Lindsey, Kan.—Don't marry the rich but irreverent young man whom you do not want to marry and whom you abominate. There is no law in Kansas compelling you to. You'd a thousand times better earn your own living.

Ethelyn of El Dorado, Kan., and Ignorance of Woodworth, Md., are two more cousins who are suffering from indifferent young men. Girls, girls, girls, won't you ever learn that you must throw that kind over and throw them hard? Why in the name of common sense do you want to waste your brains or hearts on the men who only laugh at you? If you can't help it, you have my sincerest sympathy.

Now all your questions are answered, either directly or to some other cousin asking the same questions, and I must say by till September and wish you good luck while I run away for a minute's vacation.

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If there is any disease which is awful in its effects upon the sufferer, that disease is Asthma. Suffocating, gasping for air, and sitting up, perhaps for weeks, in an agony of despair, weary, worn and helpless, such is the life of one who is afflicted with Asthma. An explorer on the Congo River in Darkest Africa, recently discovered



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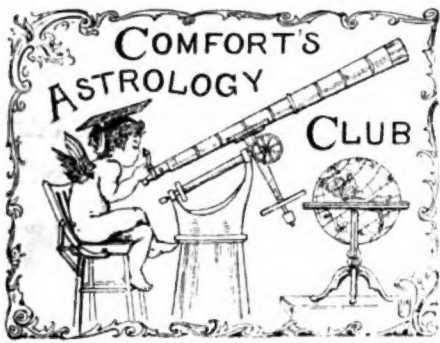
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WHEN the Sun arrives at the first minute of the celestial sign Libra the Autumn quarter commences; and in the figure erected for that time the 6th degree of Leo is on the eastern horizon while the 25th degree of Aries is on the south meridian, overhead. Leo ascending gives the Sun as chief signifier or ruler of the figure. The moon will be in the midheaven in be-
nevolent aspect with Mercury in the 3rd house where also the Sun and Venus are located. Mars is moving into conjunction with Jupiter, both in the 4th house; while the two great malefics Saturn and Herschel are in the 5th house. Altogether the figure for the quarter is a very favorable one for the general peace and prosperity of the nation. The Moon and Mercury dignified and in benefic aspect, promises unusual travel and marked improvement in railway traffic and in all the commercial lines. Railways will be favored and postal service will be effective and satisfactory. The agricultural community will be prospered, there being an abundance of corn or at least good prices for same to the farmers. True, Mars is in the 4th and may show some harm from drought or violent or other unusual disturbances of the atmosphere. The fall is likely to show some unusually dry spells which are harmful to yield of farm products in sections.

The malefics in the 5th do not promise so favorably for the Nation's sports and there are to be encountered some bad accidents or some disease affecting horses, particularly of the racing class. It is apprehended that there may be some accident or disaster in places of sports and entertainment and probably in the last two-thirds of November some bad fire or panic in a hotel, school, or theater involving wholesale injury to women and children. Let all custodians of public buildings, school houses, theaters, hotels and places of amusement see to it that the responsibility for no disaster of such a nature can be laid at their door.

There will be harmony between the people and the governing authorities and general approval and endorsement by the people of administrative action. Some conflict of authority or lawlessness is indicated in our extreme northwestern territory with probability of earth tremors and turbulent wind storms and injury to grass ranges or growing crops in the northwest, affecting cattle quite seriously.

The diseases likely to be quickened and which prove more fatal to mankind than usual are those affecting digestion in which the liver and bowels are primarily involved. Typhoid, malarial and bilious disorders are likely to prove more frequent and obstinate than usual.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER, 1899.

SEPTEMBER 1-Friday. On this day make applications to officers of large corporations or government officials for favor or advancement; conditions favor the pursuit of the antiquary and chemist; but do not have any dealings in real estate nor make purchases for trade.

2-Saturday. Push business of all kinds; consult thy dentist, engage in surgery, experiment in chemistry, trade in cattle or metals, and travel; deal in such commodities as coal, iron, petroleum, wood, lumber, lead, wool and grain, and with discretion in mining and railway stocks, if thy nativity likewise favor; make contracts for building and repairing; deal with machinists, engineers, miners, also persons in fiduciary capacities. Money transactions are generally favored and literary ventures should be urged to the utmost; do important correspondence, execute deeds and writings, hire help and purchase merchandise for trade.

3-Sunday. An excellent Sabbath day; the efforts of the clergy will be happy and effective; the day gives special enjoyment of the elegant in literature and art.

4-Monday. Improve every moment of this day, particularly for monetary transactions, buy goods for trade and deal with judges and all engaged in the ecclesiastical calling; the artist, musician, and all engaged in the artistic pursuits should waste no moments of this day in idleness or pleasure for the passing time promises unusual advantage from works now begun or executed; this day favors courtship and invites the marriage contract; aspirants for literary or artistic honors should now launch their productions with more than ordinary assurance of success.

5-Tuesday. Seek not profit from dealings in real estate nor expect to find favor with persons advanced in years during the forenoon of this day when also baffling and disappointing conditions prevail generally; do not invest thy money in the afternoon when also take care of the pennies; have no work done to the teeth on this day.

6-Wednesday. Have dealings on this day with public officials or managing authorities or superintendents in great corporations or upon large public works; solicit favor from railway officials and from persons of prominence noted for eccentricity of conduct or habit.

7-Thursday. A very fortunate day for agricultural matters and for having any manner of dealings with landlords or in houses or lands, mining properties, lumber, coal, or wool; urge the elegant occupations and the polite arts; do painting and artistic work of all kinds.

8-Friday. Begin this day with the Sun and spare no moments in idleness; the time is specially favorable for the merchant and tradesman and for all engaged in the literary avocations; choose the day for removal, travel, and buying goods for trade; seek money accommodations and speculate if thy nativity favor also at present.

9-Saturday. Do not relax these efforts of yesterday but urge the pursuit of business throughout the day; fortunate for transacting business with the wealthy, seeking money accommodations and dealing with bankers, judges, and the principal officers of railways and other large corporate bodies; push all honorable pursuits with more than ordinary assurance of success; renew thy stock in trade and urge all commercial contracts to the utmost.

10-Sunday. An unfavorable Sabbath day, being likely to be marked by depressing experiences; and inviting rest and quiet in preference to activity in any direction.

11-Monday. An evil day. The morning is peculiarly unpropitious and bids thee postpone important writings and correspondence and all commercial enterprises. It is unfortunate as a birthday anniversary, as also is the passing time for persons born about the 10th of March, June, or December of past years, as the majority of these are likely to be in the midst of some unusual mental excitements or anxieties, or to be suffering from nervous disorders, especially if they have exhausted their nervous forces by long hours or protracted mental labors in the past few months. Such persons who are mentally infirm generally, are likely now to develop malice and cunning and should be kept under quiet supervision.

12-Tuesday. One of the most unfortunate days of the month; undertake nothing of importance if thou wouldst have it succeed and avoid exposing thyself to danger. Indeed, the 48 hours ending with the midnight of this day embrace planetary combinations of unusual evil, inviting rest, quiet and extraordinary care in all respects. REGULUS cautions his friends against entering at this time upon any new business or enterprise, for nothing now begun will prosper, nor should any permanent benefit be expected from the general transactions of the day; travel not if it can be avoided and beware of in-

curring the displeasure of those in authority; government officials and officers of railroads and other large corporations will not be favorably disposed; the criminal classes are unusually disturbed and moved to the commission of crime and acts of violence; the vital energies are low and sudden collapses in all serious afflictions is to be guarded against; the day is greatly to be avoided for any matrimonial contract; many very strange and ill-assorted marriages are effected at this time and disappointment, poverty and unhappiness will fall to the lot of the greater number who now assume the matrimonial yoke; ladies should not allow any alluring prospect of riches to influence them at this time to make any engagement of the above nature. All persons born as indicated in the preceding paragraph will need to exercise unusual care in all their business ventures in these passing weeks and in all matters of health; ladies, so born, are now in the midst of trying experiences in family, domestic, or heart affairs. Some bad cases of brutality towards the female sex are indicated for this time; come and a sort of epidemic of suicides prevail. Let all be patient, if born as indicated, and put up with evils that exist rather than to fly to others unknown.

13-Wednesday. The week so far has been a very unfortunate one that could not be recommended for any important venture; to-day brings some marked improvement in conditions and best efforts should now be put forth; every moment should be improved diligently pushing all manner of business, signing deeds, entering into contracts and pursuing literary avocations to the fullest extent; let special preference be given to the noon and afternoon hours for the most important work.

14-Thursday. The forenoon is baffling and disappointing and no business deals should be inaugurated then, especially concerning houses or lands, or any products of agriculture; the evening is better for the musical and artistic pursuits and enjoyment of the drama.

15-Friday. Bridle the tongue in the morning hours and keep out of all kinds of disputes, but as the day advances let all efforts be crowded, particularly in the direction of any contract pertaining to houses and lands; come and a sort of epidemic of suicides prevail. Let all be patient, if born as indicated, and put up with evils that exist rather than to fly to others unknown.

16-Saturday. The day after the early morning is a good one and should be fully improved for the major undertakings of life; preference being given, if any, to the mechanical pursuits.

17-Sunday. The forenoon conduces to happy efforts of the clergy, giving unusual volubility to the tongue as well as eloquence and zeal to pulpit discourse.

18-Monday. Arise betimes and urge all monetary engagements before the noon hour; solicit money accommodations and make purchases for trade as early as 9 o'clock in the morning, if possible; the noon and afternoon are less to be depended upon and forbid the execution of any contract pertaining to houses and lands; or that is concerned with printing or publishing; see that no deceit is practiced as the afternoon advances and give a wide berth to persons advanced in years.

19-Tuesday. Unpromising for dealings in decorative or ornamental goods, nor should the time be taken for any important social, musical, or dramatic entertainment or the pursuit of pleasure in any direction; beware of leading thy fair one to the altar in the first half of the day, nor need any advantage be looked for in any of the elegant or artistic pursuits; the evening is favorable for engagements with persons noted for eccentricity of habit and should be used for correspondence with government officials or dealers in patents or newly discovered secrets.

20-Wednesday. Have dealings on this day with the laboring classes generally and also with persons who are engaged in the agricultural pursuits; though the day is not recommended for any writing pertaining to lands or mining properties.

21-Thursday. Fully employ the forenoon in thy several avocations, but have care as the afternoon advances not to be led into controversies; be not over-sensitive in the dealings with thy fellowmen; and do not embark in any undertaking concerned with machinery or drugs, or chemicals; avoid chemists, bakers, brewers, tanners, cutlers, glass manufacturers, and generally all workers in metal.

22-Friday. Have care of the purse in the forenoon when speculations are best not indulged in; do not buy goods for trade except in limited quantities and do not "ride over" nor be extravagant or make needless purchases; seek no favors from female employers or superintendents in the afternoon, when the fine arts suffer some detriment or give dissatisfaction.

23-Saturday. Conflicting conditions prevail in the first half of this day, not encouraging any kind of bargain or sale of land or its products; literary undertakings are favored and important correspondence should be urged; seek advantage from thine employer or superior in the afternoon.

24-Sunday. There is little of promise for this forenoon, especially of assistance to the clergy, those connected with religious worship, or for matters of an ecclesiastical nature.

25-Monday. Be in no haste to begin thy labors on this day, especially if they pertain to matters connected with houses or lands, or such commodities as coal, wood, lumber, or agricultural products; the middle and latter hours of the day are the best and should be fully improved for the honorable pursuits in life.

26-Tuesday. Have care in all contracts or agreements pertaining to the elegant pursuits or any of the artistic productions, as such matters are not favorably influenced; engage in chemical experiments and in the prosecution of business dealings in cattle, metals, machinery, cutlery, and with those engaged in the mechanical trades.

27-Wednesday. Have no transactions at this time with persons who are eccentric in habit or as to dress; or who are concerned with patents or patented goods; avoid railway authorities and do not expect much civility from railway employees or public officials.

28-Thursday. Begin the day early and urge all business diligently; REGULUS particularly urges his friends in the intellectual pursuits to press their several vocations to the utmost and recommends the day equally for the merchant, tradesman, and traveler, for change of residence and dealings with printers, booksellers, stationers and counsellors, and for having transactions pertaining to patents, trade-marks and patented articles.

29-Friday. Use the first half of the day to its fullest extent, especially for all the elegant transactions, and for art and music; also for dealings in wearing apparel and for the gratification of mankind; the afternoon forbids purchases for trade and cautions prudence in expenditures.

30-Saturday. Give attention on this day to thy dealings in houses or lands, and agricultural and mining products, also with persons in the very laborious and dirty avocations generally.



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The Past Month in the Colonies.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



AGUINALDO'S HEADQUARTERS.

DECIDEDLY the situation in the Philippines is, to say the least, unpleasant. On one hand we are assured from official utterances that the situation is everything that could be desired and that as soon as the rainy season is over the insurrection will be promptly quelled. On the other hand it is claimed that our army is practically penned up in Manila, and notwithstanding the many successes which we have made it has been impossible to hold the ground which has been gained time and again without costly struggle. The truth probably lies part way between the two statements, and it will be necessary to have a much larger army in the Philippines to garrison the points which are successively won. It is an easy matter to criticize and tell how the campaign should be run from the comfort of an office at home, but it is a very different matter handling successfully an army in a comparatively unknown mountain country and to quell a formidable insurrection which partakes both of the character of regularly organized warfare and the more wearing and dangerous part of campaigning, guerilla or bushwhacking war.

Another source of weakness just at the present time is that a large part of the volunteer soldiers are returning home. These men are acclimated and have really become veteran fighters. Their places are being slowly refilled by regulars in the service. With the islands garrisoned as far as possible and with quite a large army at Manila, there are available only from four to seven thousand men for active operations, and while criticism is easy it is impossible for so small an army to fight and at the same time furnish garrisons for every point which is captured.

The administration realizing this condition, while loth to call for volunteers, are rapidly organizing an increased army of regulars enlisted for two years. There will be an increase of some 35,000 to 40,000 men sent to the Philippines and it is almost certain that with such an increase the insurrection will be speedily quelled. Meantime the campaign is comparatively inactive, and with one exception there has been nothing exciting for some time. An expedition of about one thousand men was surrounded by the insurgents and would have been annihilated but for the timely intervention of the naval forces. This is the nearest we have had to a defeat in the present campaign.

People who are thoroughly conversant with Malay characteristics state that the Filipino, when inspired by desire for revenge, is a formidable enemy; but once convinced that he has made a mistake, these feelings leave at once and he is a pacific and quiet citizen inclined to keep well within the law. Upon this trait great hopes are being formed for dealing with the Filipino masses. It is believed that as soon as they are convinced that the Americans are actually their friends and that they are to have better government, a lesson which they are rapidly learning from every point where the Americans are in control, they will rapidly become good citizens.

The testimony of all people who have lately become familiar with the Filipinos is to the effect that they are far above the average Cuban, both in education and ability, and that they are really very desirable people of good traits of character as a whole. It must be remembered that for three centuries they have been under the dominion of a foreign government; and that they naturally look upon foreigners as meaning rapacity, tyranny and mendacity. It will take some time to overcome the traditions of generations, but it will surely come and bring with it peace, order and happiness as has been the case in the British possessions every time where similar opposition has been made to that nation when first taking possession.

Readers of COMFORT will judge newspaper statements upon the situation as rather overdrawn, remembering that the question of the future government of the Philippines is very probable to be a prominent question in the



CHIEF JUSTICE CHAMBERS.

next national political campaign and that many of the statements made by the so-called anti-Imperialists are being put abroad at the present time to inflame people against the policy of the administration. It is to be remembered that this country has taken no definite stand as to what the future of the Philippines shall be further than that they have paid to have Spain leave them and that the possession must be in the hands of the United States. Misleading statements are continually made representing Aguinaldo as another Washington and the in-

surgers as similar to the Continental Army in the days of our Revolution; but to any person who has followed the events the situation is entirely different, Aguinaldo being an adventurer, having but a comparatively small part of the people actively with him and being a despotic and ambitiously selfish man. The policy laid down by President McKinley at the Boston dinner is the only one which can really be followed, and that is that neither the President nor any other person can make the decision nor is it right to do so without authority; but that until Congress shall have determined exactly what line is to be taken, it is the duty of the government to uphold the United States in its ownership and to forcibly repress any insurrection against that power.

One of the instances that has recently come to light is of considerable interest to Americans, and that is that for six months thousands of papers and pamphlets were published and distributed among the Filipinos, who are generally fairly well educated, portraying the Americans as the vilest people on earth and much inferior in every way to the Spaniards. It is said that these stories magnified every unpleasant instance in connection with the Indians and pictured innumerable lynchings and burnings as the customary way of punishing men; and going back to the days before the Civil War, gave pictures of slave life and taught the Filipinos that that was to be their lot as soon as the Americans had conquered. The effect of such literature can easily be imagined, and it has been one of the greatest obstacles with which our people have had to contend. The effect is very much heightened by the action of the people opposed to the administration who have played into the hands of the enemy by furnishing them all kinds of hope and encouragement.



HON. BELLAMY STORER.

low" papers of the campaign was in effect that men, women and children were ruthlessly massacred and slaughtered at Malabon. Now comes Professor Worcester, one of our commissioners, who has personally followed the army and examined every battlefield from Calocan to Malolos—often before the burial of the dead or the removal of the wounded. He has never discovered either dead or wounded women or children. Nor have prisoners ever been killed. On the contrary, insurgent wounded have been tenderly cared for by our American soldiers, who have shown as would be expected humanity, self-control and chivalry at all times. War is always bad enough but it is more than indecency to publish such revolting stories merely to pandering to depraved tastes for sensationalism; or, what is worse, to recount such stories for political purposes.

The appointment of a new board of commissioners on the Nicaragua canal project by the President has called renewed attention to that enterprise. There is no reason to doubt that ever since the last congress failed to pass any bill relative to this undertaking there has been very much thought given the subject; and that a very great proportion of our people, remembering the Oregon's flight around Cape Horn to meet the Spanish fleet a year ago, believe that such a waterway should be made. There are many rumors of the railroad influence being against it and also of jobbery in connection with the proposed canal; but undoubtedly the larger part of our citizens believe it should be completed at once. We are no longer an infant nation and our sudden coming into power in the Orient makes it necessary that we should always be in a prepared state of defense.

In a previous article COMFORT told at length about the present enterprise. It is probable that no other enterprise of similar nature has ever had the attention which has been given the proposed canal. As early as 1836 DeWitt Clinton with other capitalists first surveyed it. The great rush of people to California after the gold strike of '49 caused a Vanderbilt syndicate to survey it again, and altogether nine surveys have been made. It is the belief of every practical man that there is no reason why the canal shall not be more of a success than ever the Suez canal has been since it was built. The success and experience of the latter has been made a basis of the expectations of the Nicaragua, and it is calculated there will be at least 5,000,000 tons shipping annually at a toll of an average of \$1.50 a ton. Had this canal been completed the Oregon instead of sailing 15,000 miles would have been saved two-thirds the distance. Incidentally it is well to know that from New York to Manila is 200 miles shorter by Suez than by the proposed way.

Speaking of this canal reminds COMFORT that the largest canal ever devised is now being constructed by the Russian government connecting the Baltic and the Black seas. When this is completed Russian warships will be able to pass from her southern to northern boundaries without the necessity of making a voyage through the Mediterranean Sea and on through the British channel. The entire length of the way is 1080 miles; but of this 850 miles are on rivers, leaving the remainder to be

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The situation in the Samoan islands remains comparatively unchanged. The king has been deposed and the joint commission representing the three powers—America, England and Germany, has undertaken the government of the islands. This has led to the disarmament of the natives and a peaceful and secure situation. It now appears that Chief Justice Chambers has taken a wise course and that his various decisions for the government of the islands and their laws will have the support of the commission. Chief Justice Chambers has been a most prominent figure throughout the whole trouble and apparently has shown great tact and decision in dealing with the various factions which have supported the native claimants for the crown.

One of the most noticeable features of the recent celebration of July 4th was the universal recognition of the day both at home and abroad. The leading position which America has taken in the affairs of the world in the past year caused most general attention to be paid to the anniversary. In every part of the world our flag was saluted, the English being particularly demonstrative and friendly. In our own country more powder was burned than ever before, and the noisy demonstrations were noticeable in every city and hamlet. It would be impossible to calculate the amount of money expended in these celebrations. China exports about \$40,000,000 worth of firecrackers a year and over two-thirds of these are burned in this country, which is but a small part of the amount. It is said that about a score of American boys in Havana showed the inhabitants for the first time what a celebration meant, much to the surprise of local police which had orders not to interfere.

One of the pleasant features of the day was the very general display of American flags and bunting in the Cuban cities and a particularly enthusiastic celebration in San Juan, Porto Rico. On the whole the progress of American rule in Cuba is entirely encouraging and is evidently rapidly gaining respect and encouragement of all the better class of inhabitants.

Hon. Bellamy Storer, our newly-appointed minister to Spain, has presented his credentials at the court of the Queen-Regent and been pleasantly received. Diplomatic relations between the two countries accordingly have returned to the position in which they were previous to the recent war.

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